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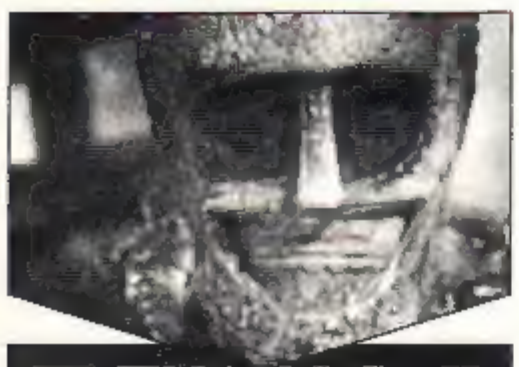

The Telesnap Archive

THE ICE WARRIORS

The Fourth Doctor meets **The Star Beast**

The Second Doctor becomes involved in **Space War III**

plus **K9's Finest Hour**

Issue 25 ◆ 12th October 1994 ◆ £2.50 ◆ US $4.95

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Blackcastle has a new resident. He's soft, furry and very sweet. Or so the Fourth Doctor thinks . . . Story by Pat Mills and John Wagner with art by Dave Gibbons and new colours by Paul Vyse. Originally presented in **Doctor Who Weekly** Issues 19 – 26.

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The Third Doctor is whisked to another planet, and faces the menace of a giant gorilla . . . A complete story by Dick O'Neill with art by Gerry Haylock and new colours by David Leach. Originally presented in *TV Action* Issue 120.

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Having overseen Doctor Who Classic Comics since its inception nearly two years ago, one question I am frequently asked by readers is "What is your favourite comic strip?" My instinct has always been to try and think of one of the Gerry Haylock-drawn *Countdown* + *TV Action* Pertwee strips for nostalgic reasons, or something more along the lines of the graphic excellence of last year's *Evening's Empire* special. But when it comes down to it, one particular adventure bludgeons its way to the forefront of my mind. Simply because it takes the concepts of *Doctor Who* into a realm that could only successfully be conveyed via the wonderfully flamboyant artwork of Dave Gibbons, *Doctor Who and the Star Beast* is my numero uno story.

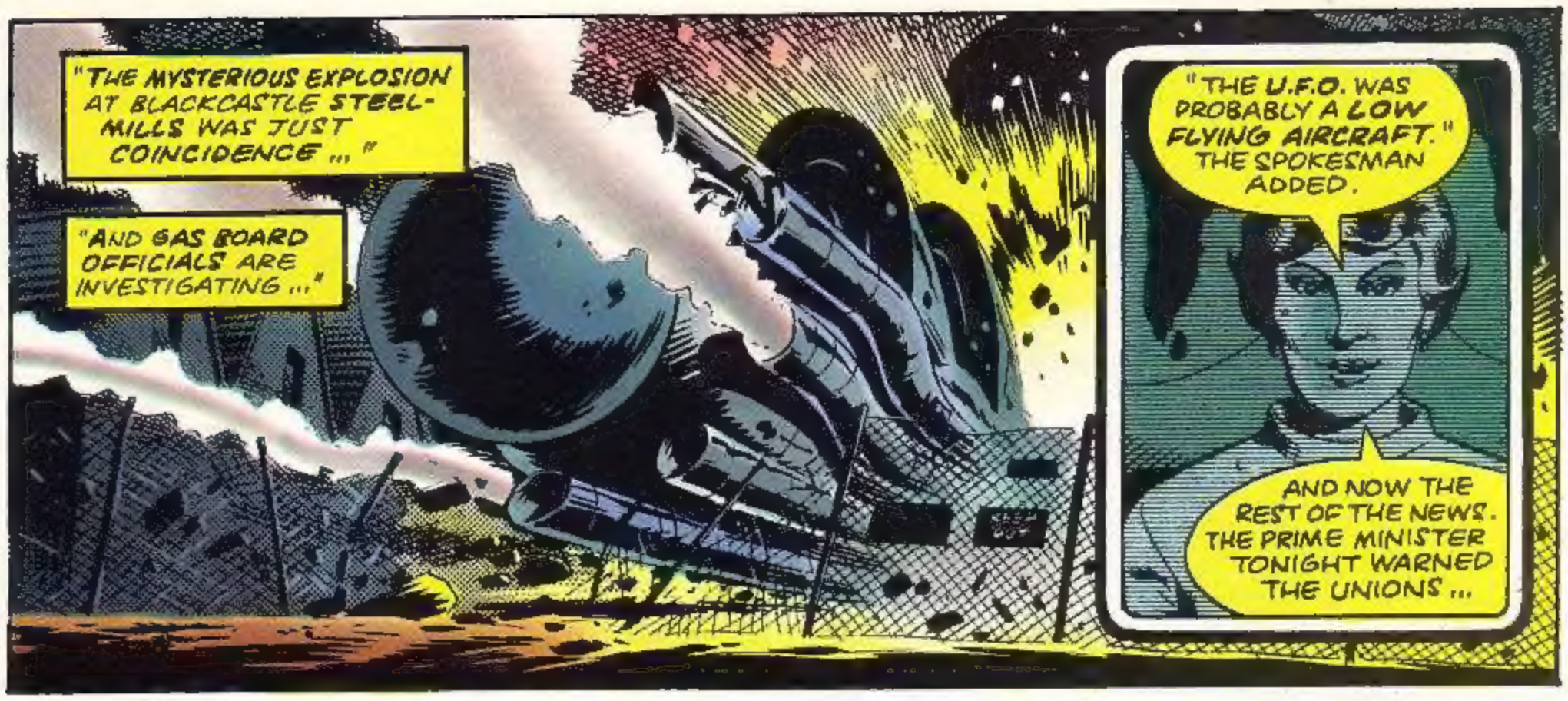
Beep the Meep is one of those rare characters that perfectly suits the *Doctor Who* comic strip. To take something as simple as a fluffy white ball, stick two doe-eyes and big rabbit ears on it and even the most cynical of readers cannot help but go "ahhhh" when Sharon and Fudge find him alone, injured and frightened in the alien (to him anyway) environs of Blackcastle. As a creation, the Meep is something that could never have been done even reasonably successfully on a *Doctor Who* television budget and, unlike Daleks, Sontarans, Quarks, Trods and Cybermen, it is almost unique in its simplicity to draw.

A few years back, when I had the opportunity to write a April Fool's strip for Doctor Who Magazine (*Party Animals* in Issue 173) I immediately said I wanted to bring the Meep back in a cameo. When I suggested to Paul Vyse that he might like to colour-up the original *Doctor Who and the Star Beast* strip, he jumped at the chance. Colin Howard was excited at the prospect of painting him on the cover.

So you see, it's not just me – everyone holds an affection for the character. One day, when the time is right and everyone least expects it, he'll be back. That's a promise . . .

Gary

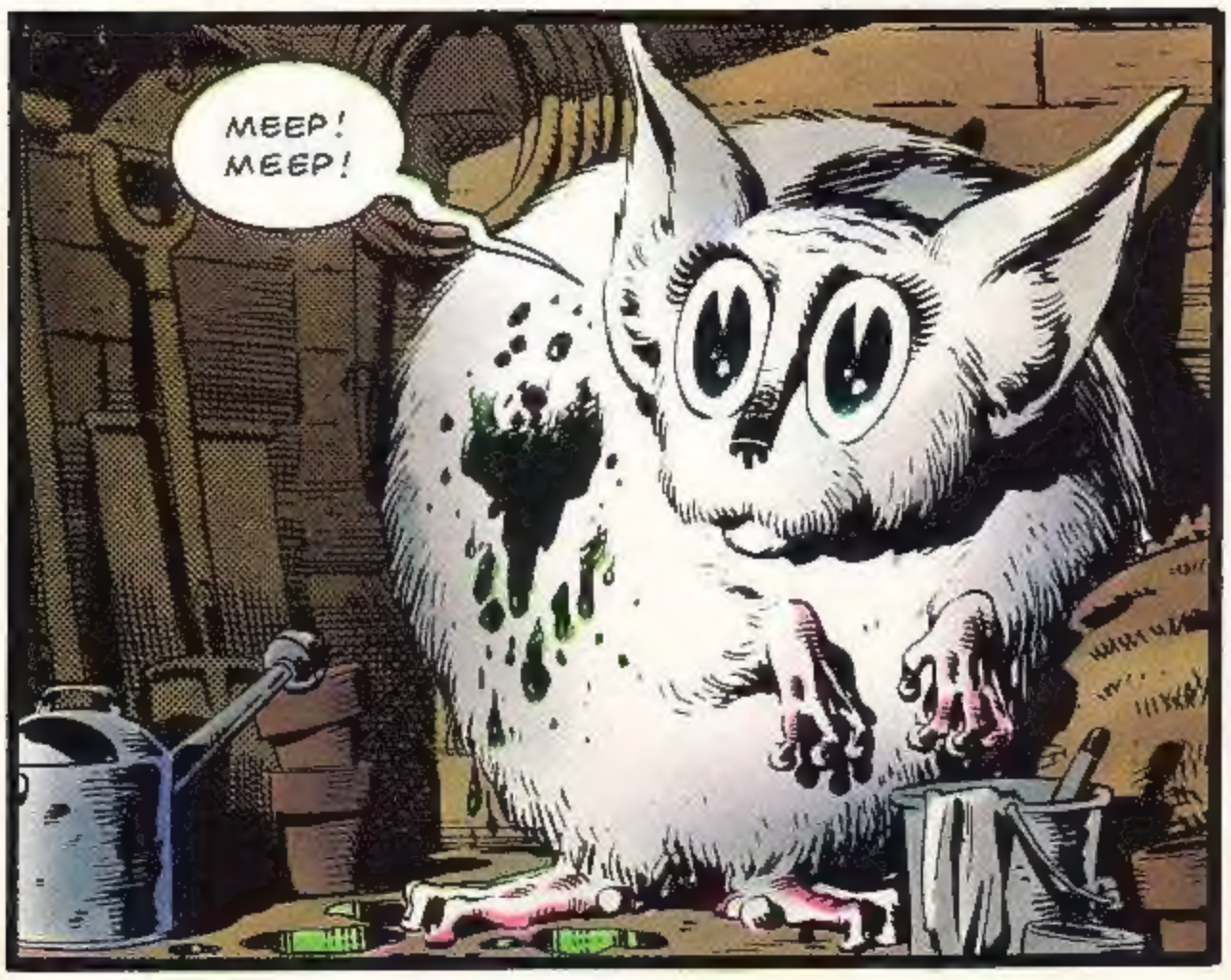
Stan Lee presents
DOCTOR WHO
AND THE
STAR BEAST
GOOD EVENING. HERE IS THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.
REPORTS BY LOCAL PEOPLE THAT A U.F.O. FLEW LOW OVER BLACKCASTLE LAST NIGHT HAVE BEEN SCORNED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES.
"THEY SHOULD GET THEIR EYES TESTED," A SPOKESMAN SAID. "BLACKCASTLE IS THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH ALIENS WOULD WANT TO VISIT!"
WRITERS: MILLS + WAGNER / ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS / EDITOR: DEZ SKINN


"THE MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION AT BLACKCASTLE STEEL-MILLS WAS JUST COINCIDENCE ..."
"AND GAS BOARD OFFICIALS ARE INVESTIGATING ..."
"THE U.F.O. WAS PROBABLY A LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT." THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.
AND NOW THE REST OF THE NEWS. THE PRIME MINISTER TONIGHT WARNED THE UNIONS ...

NEXT DAY --
JUST IMAGINE, SHARON...! THE 'MONSTER FROM ANOTHER WORLD' COULD BE LURKING SOMEWHERE IN THIS DUMP!
DON'T BE STUPID, FUDGE! YOU'VE BEEN READING TOO MANY SPACE COMICS -- THEY ROT YOUR BRAIN, YOU KNOW!

WHAT'S THIS GREEN SLIME, THEN?
IT'S JUST PAINT, DUMBO.
NO -- IT SMELLS ... DIFFERENT! LET'S FOLLOW IT ...

IF WE'RE CAUGHT, THEY'LL THINK WE'RE NICKING SOME-THING...
SHAR! BLIMEY! LOOK...!


MEEP! MEEP!

HE LOOKS A BIT WEEDY, DOESN'T HE?
WHAT D'YOU EXPECT AN ALIEN TO LOOK LIKE, BIRD BRAIN? I THINK HE'S SWEET ... PLEASE -- DON'T BE FRIGHTENED!
MEEP!

GOT ANY GOOD S.F. GIMMICKS, MATE? TELE-PORTATION...? ANTI-GRAV...? TIME-CONTROL...?
CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S BADLY HURT, FUDGE? HELP ME STOP HIM BLEEDING.
MEEP!
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN DO? JUST SIT THERE GOING 'MEEP! MEEP!'?
MEEP! MEEP!
MUST BE A WAY TO MAKE SOME MONEY OUT OF HIM ... HOW ABOUT FLOGGING HIM DOWN THE PET SHOP?
NO, FUDGE!
WE DON'T WANT GROWN-UPS POKING THEIR NOSES IN. WE FOUND HIM...
HE'S OUR ALIEN! OUR SECRET!
MEANWHILE, IN SPACE...
NOW HEAR THIS! OUR SEARCH FOR THE MEEP IS ALMOST OVER! IT HAS LANDED ON THE THIRD PLANET OF THIS SYSTEM!
IT WILL BE FOUND! I, LEADER OF THE WRARTH WARRIORS, SO SWEAR! AND THEN...
...THE MEEP WILL DIE!
SKLAK!

THE TARDIS MATERIALISES ON BOARD--
♫ ...WE'RE OFF TO SUNNY SPAIN! VIVA ESPAÑA! ♪

THIS ISN'T BENI-DORM, K-9!
CORRECT, MASTER!

IT'S PITCH-BLACK--DEFINITELY NOT THE PLACE FOR A SUN-TAN! WELL, LET'S SEE WHERE THE RANDOMISER HAS LANDED US THIS TIME...
K-9

A STAR SHIP OF SOME KIND... BUT WHY IS EVERYTHING IN DARK-NESS?
MAYBE THIS IS THE LIGHT-SWITCH...

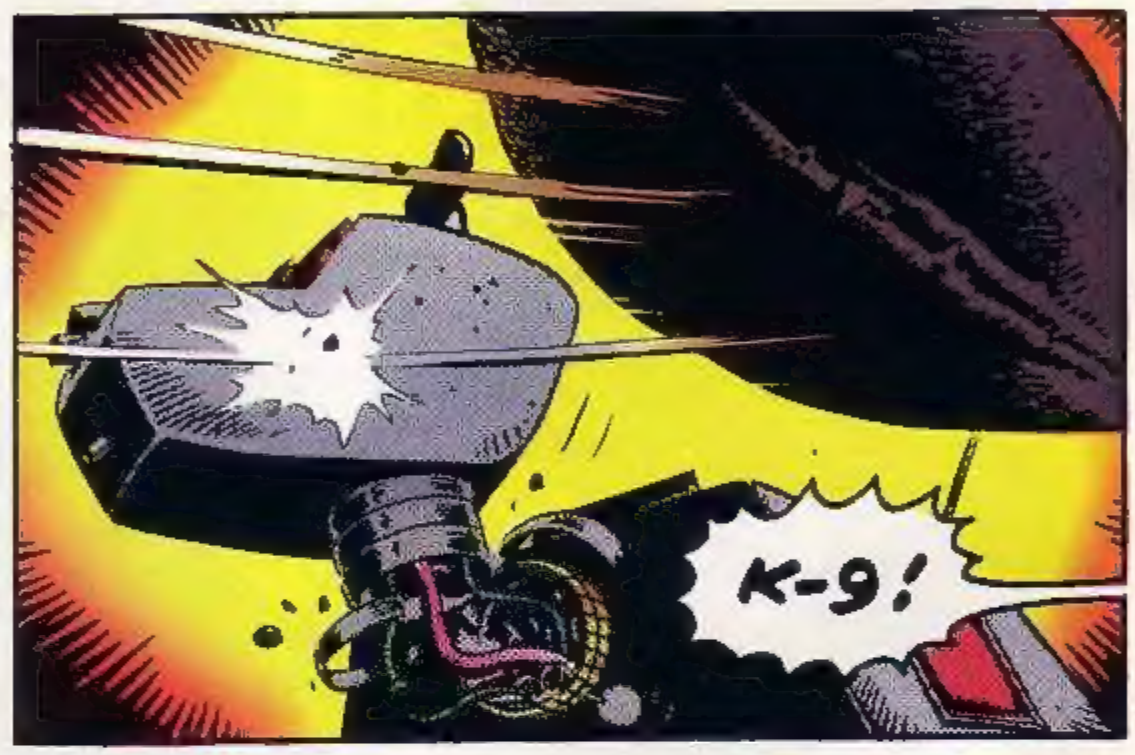
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY! I DIDN'T REALISE I WAS SQUEEZING YOUR EYE-BALL!

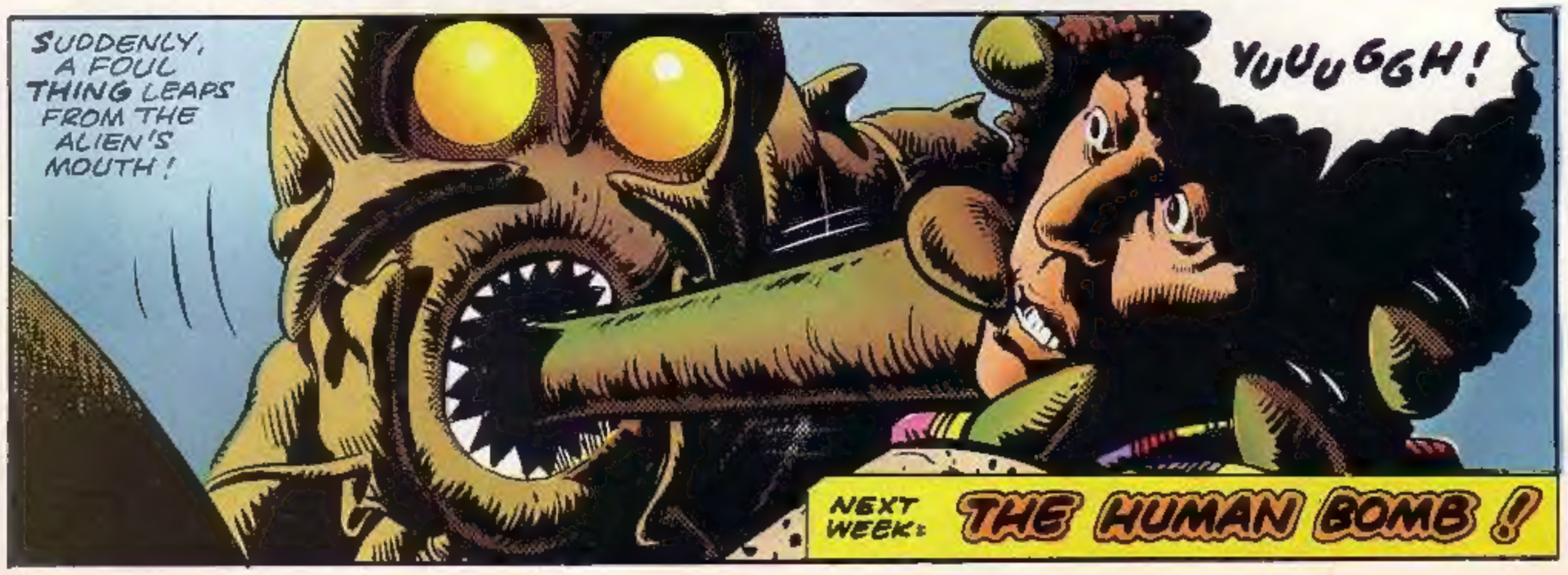
PERHAPS WE SHOULD INTRODUCE OUR-SELVES... OH, WELL --PERHAPS NOT!

MY SOMBRERO! THERE'S NO REASONING WITH THE CREATURE!
K-9! DO YOUR BUSINESS ON HIM!

AFFIRMATIVE, MASTER!
K-9

EFFECT OF LASER BEAM--ZERO! APOLOGIES, MASTER!
THERE, THERE, K-9. MY WORD! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A STRANGE AND POWERFUL SPECIES!

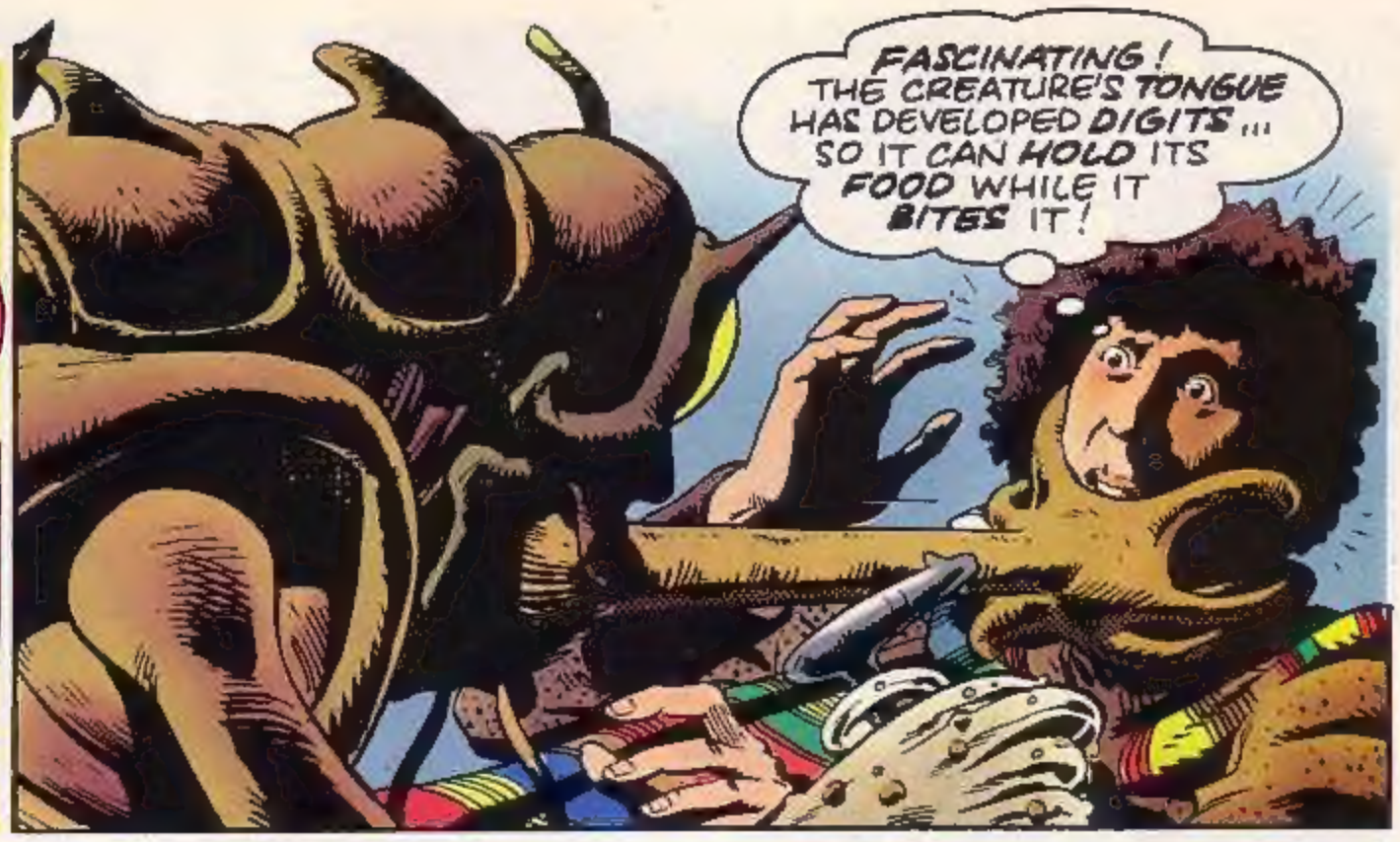

K-9!

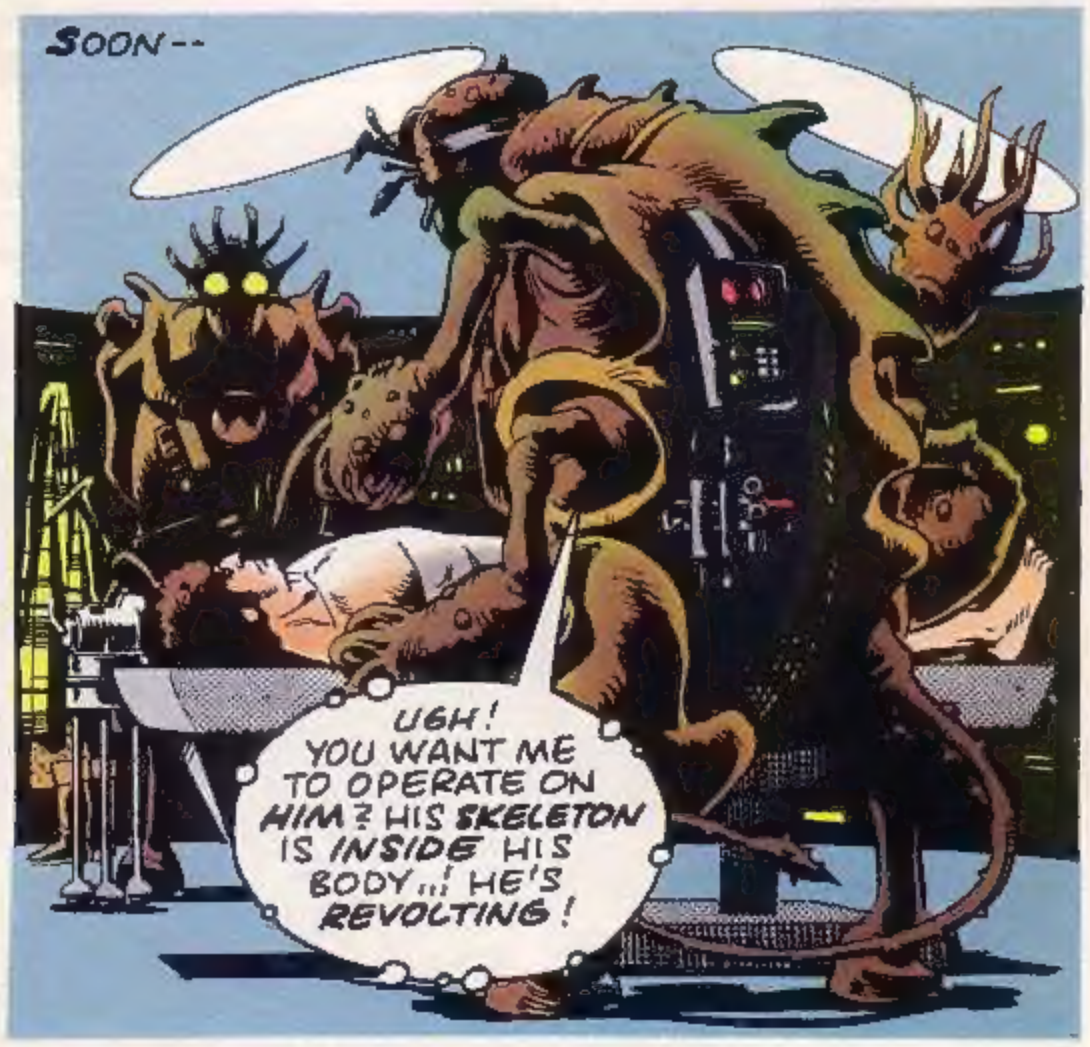

SUDDENLY, A FOUL THING LEAPS FROM THE ALIEN'S MOUTH!
YUUUGGH!
NEXT WEEK: THE HUMAN BOMB!

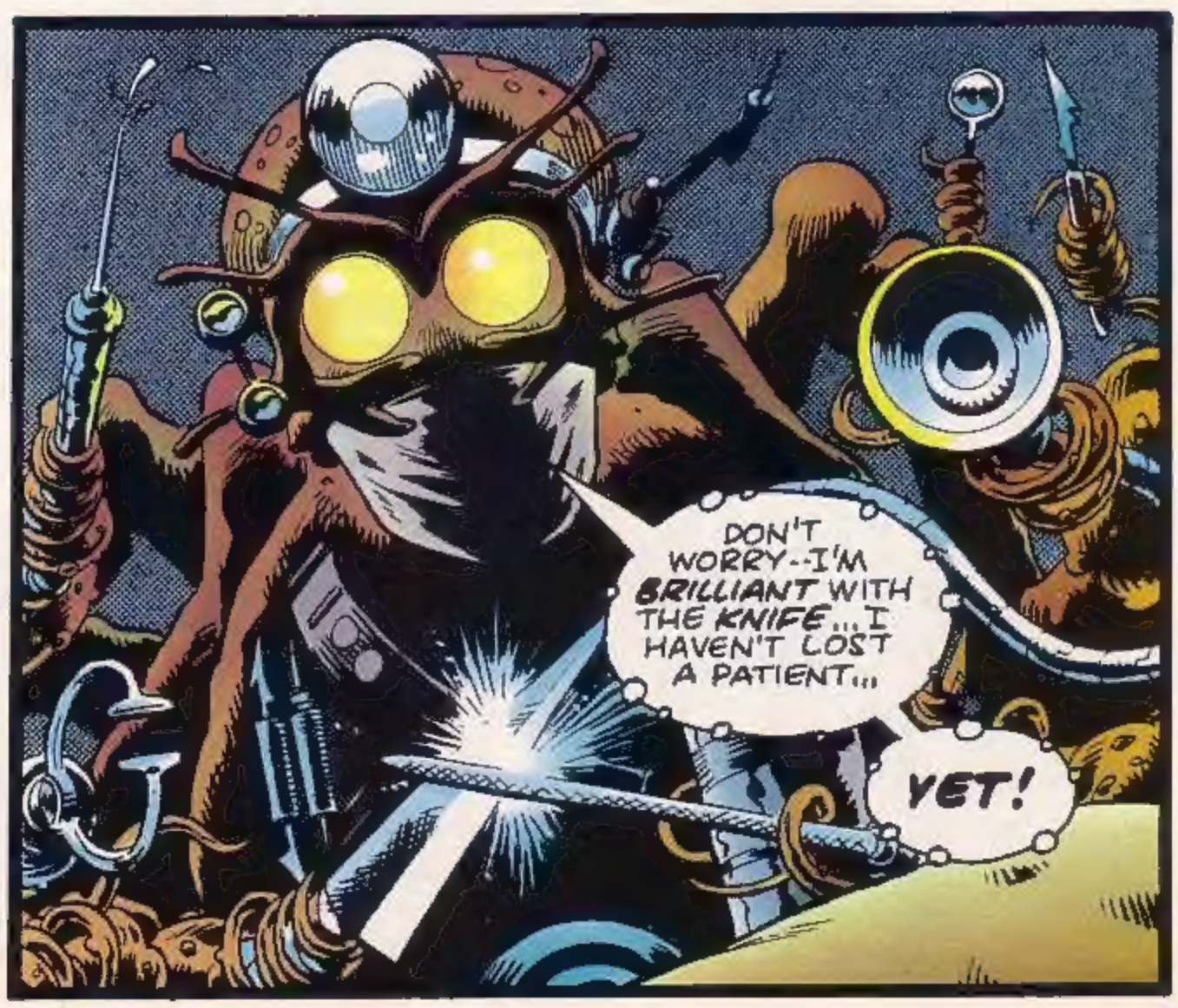
Stan Lee presents

DOCTOR WHO AND THE STAR BEAST

A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN—KNOWN AS 'THE MEEP'—HAS MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN BLACKCASTLE, WHERE HE IS FOUND BY TWO CHILDREN. MEANWHILE, THE DOCTOR AND K-9 MEET UP WITH THE ALIEN'S PURSUERS—THE WRARTH WARRIORS!



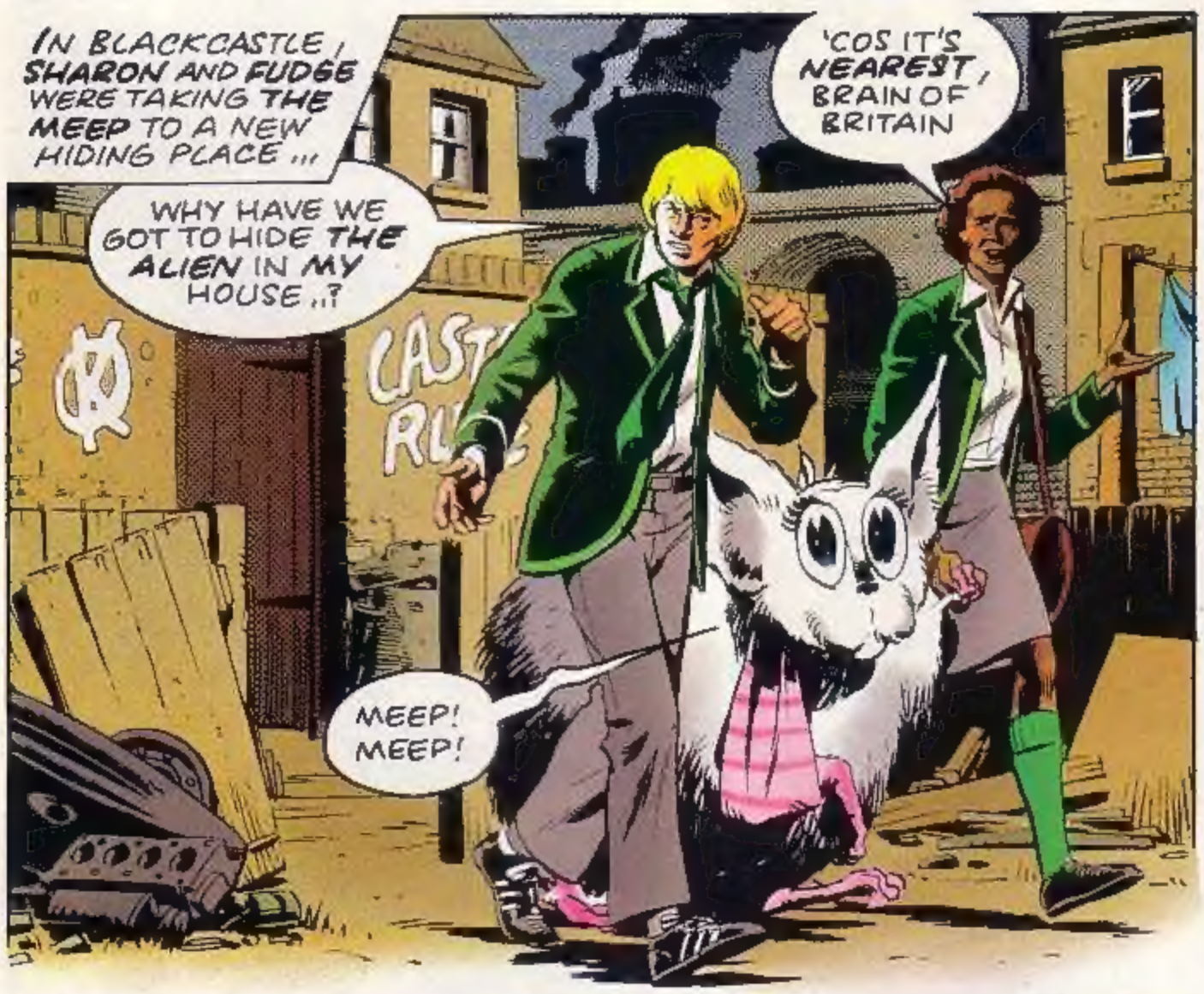




MAKING FIRST INCISION!

AN HOUR LATER--
I'VE PLANTED THE BOMB IN HIS STOMACH. THERE'LL BE NO OPERATION SCAR ...THESE ARE SURGEON'S TENTACLES!
GOOD. HE MUST NOT KNOW HE IS NOW... A LIVING BOMB!

THEN WE WILL USE HIM TO DESTROY THE ACCURSED MEEP!


IN BLACKCASTLE, SHARON AND FUDGE WERE TAKING THE MEEP TO A NEW HIDING PLACE...
WHY HAVE WE GOT TO HIDE THE ALIEN IN MY HOUSE..?
'COS IT'S NEAREST, BRAIN OF BRITAIN
MEEP! MEEP!

WE'LL LOOK AFTER YOU AND SEE YOU DON'T COME TO ANY HARM.
MEEP!

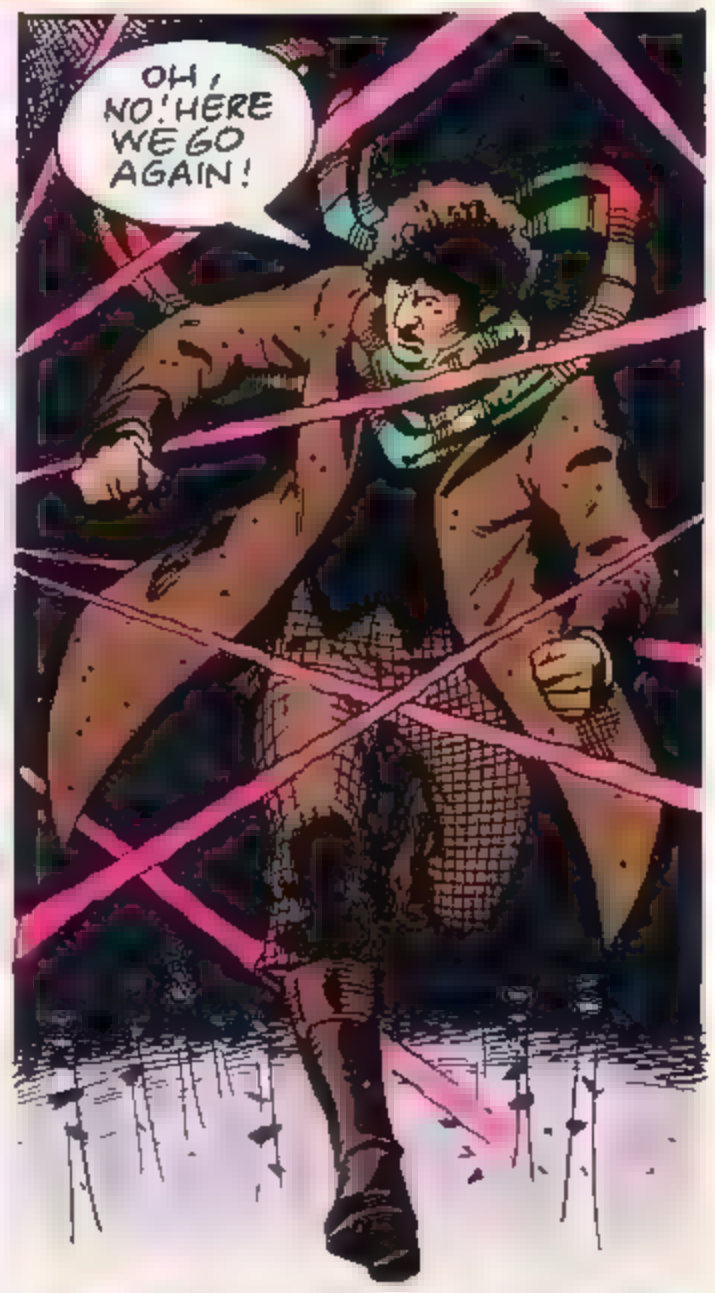
WELL, WHAT IF HE DOES A METAMORPHOSIS IN MY BEDROOM? I GOTTA SLEEP THERE, YOU KNOW!
THE MEEP WON'T HURT YOU! NOW MAKE SURE THE COAST IS CLEAR...

COME ON! BUT IF THAT FUR-BAG GIVES ME SOME REVOLTIN' SPACE LURGEY --I'LL MAKE SURE YOU CATCH IT, TOO!
OH, THAT'S NICE! WELL, YOU'RE REVOLTIN', ALREADY!
MEEP! MEEP!

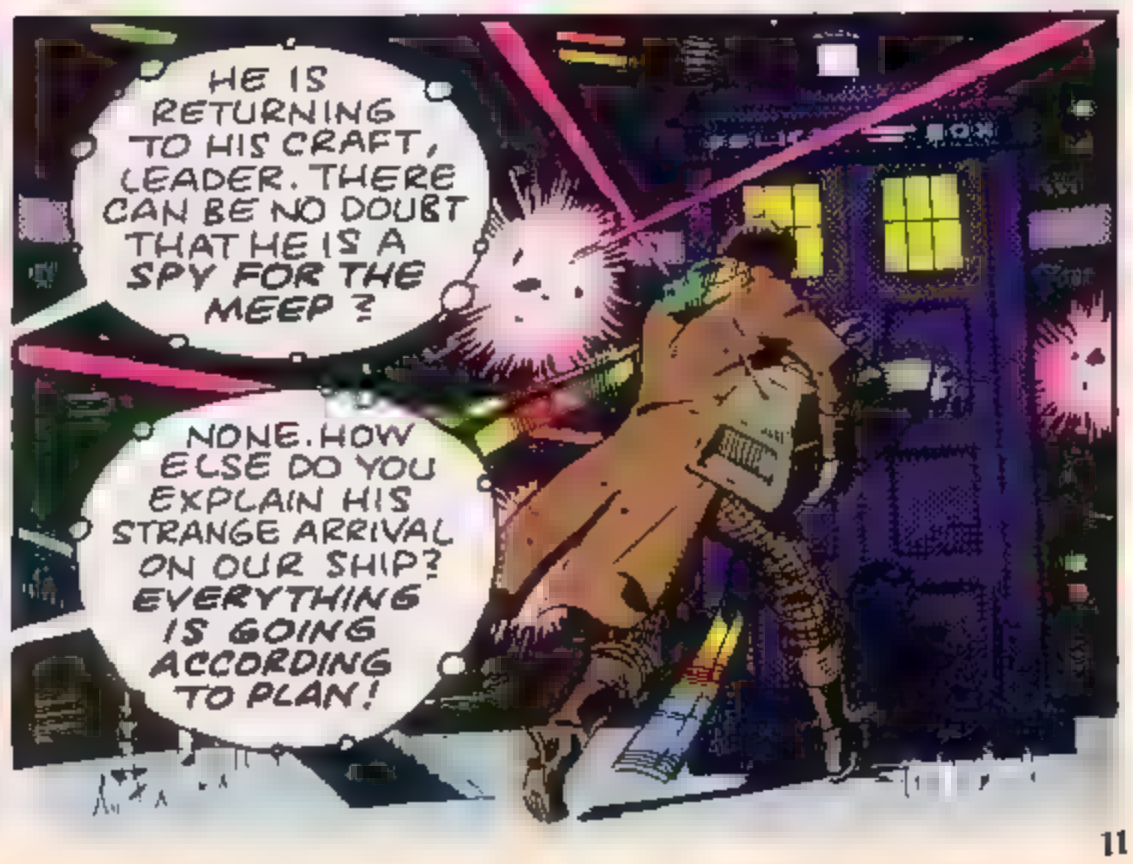
MEEP! MEEP!
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE. WE'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR YOUR CRASHED SPACE ROCKET NOW...
DON'T SAY 'SPACE ROCKET'... YOU CALL THEM STAR SHIPS! GIRLS ARE SUCH THICKIES!

ON BOARD THE WRARTH WARRIORS' STAR SHIP, THE DOCTOR REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...
WH-WHAT HAPPENED...? LAST THING I REMEMBER--AN ALIEN WAS TRYING TO SUFFOCATE ME!

IT'S SO BLACK--THE CREW MUST SEE IN THE DARK...THEY PROBABLY EAT A LOT OF CARROTS!
NOW ... FIRE CLOSE TO HIM! MAKE IT LOOK CONVIN-CING!


OH, NO! HERE WE GO AGAIN!

COME ON, K-9 --IT'S TIME WE WERE LEAVING!

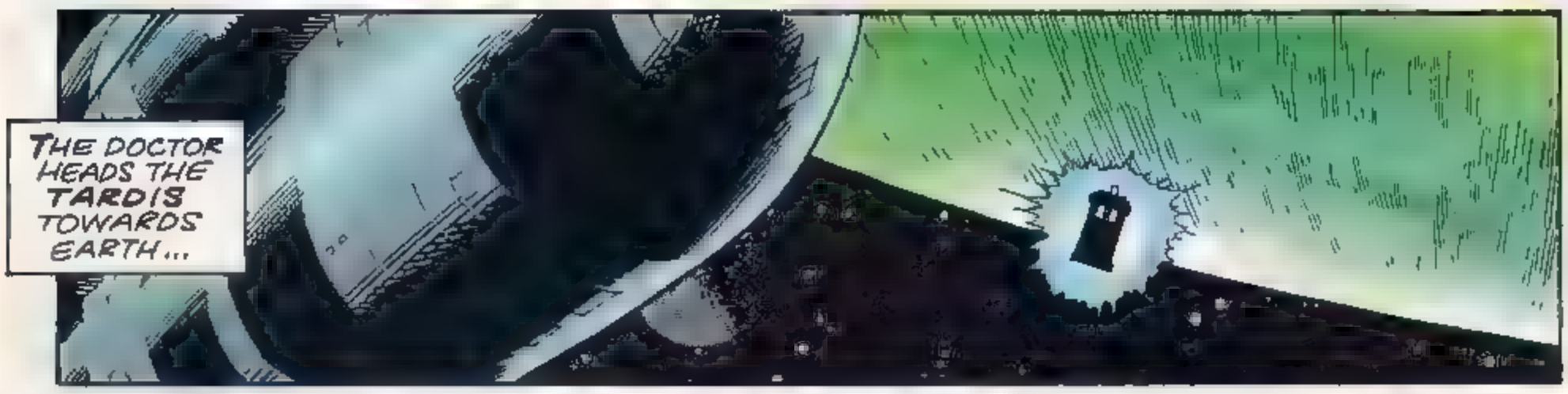

HE IS RETURNING TO HIS CRAFT, LEADER. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT HE IS A SPY FOR THE MEEP?
NONE. HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPLAIN HIS STRANGE ARRIVAL ON OUR SHIP? EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!

A PAT ON THE BACK, DOCTOR--ANOTHER FANTASTIC ESCAPE! AND YOU'RE FINE ... APART FROM A TUMMY ACHE!

I'LL GET YOU REPAIRED, K-9, THEN ... HELLO! WE'RE PICKING UP A T.V. SIGNAL FROM EARTH...

REPORTS THAT THE STRANGE FIRE AT BLACKCASTLE STEEL MILLS WAS CAUSED BY AN EXPLODING U.F.O. HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS ... "ABSOLUTE POPPYCOCK", BY A SPOKESMAN.

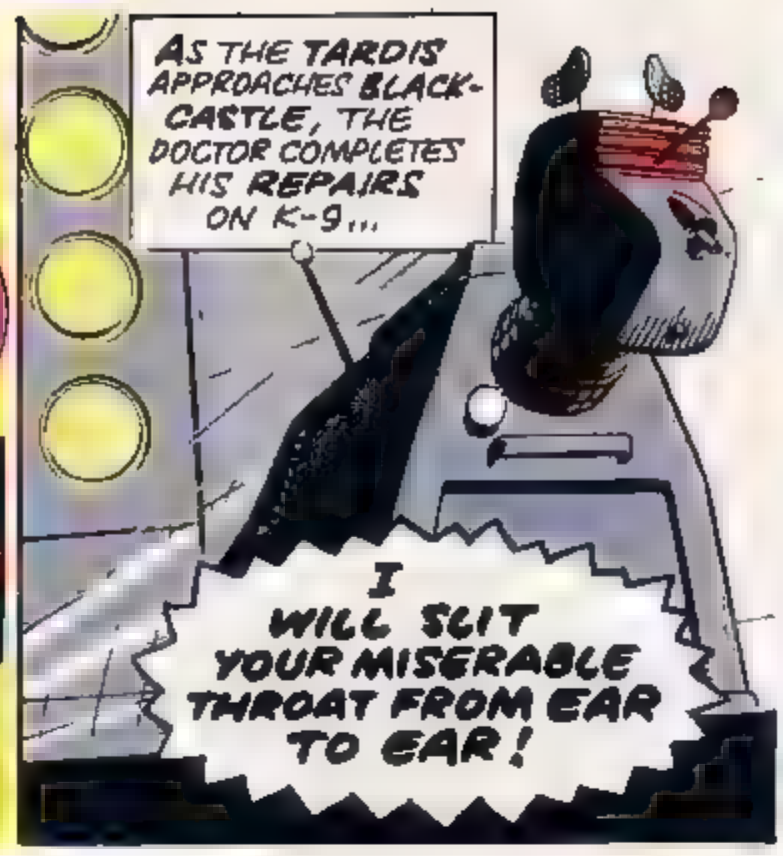
HOW DARE HE SAY "ABSOLUTE POPPYCOCK"? WHAT ABSOLUTE POPPYCOCK! THOSE ARE DEFINITELY FLAMES FROM A NEUTRON DRIVE STAR CRUISER!
I'D BETTER TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

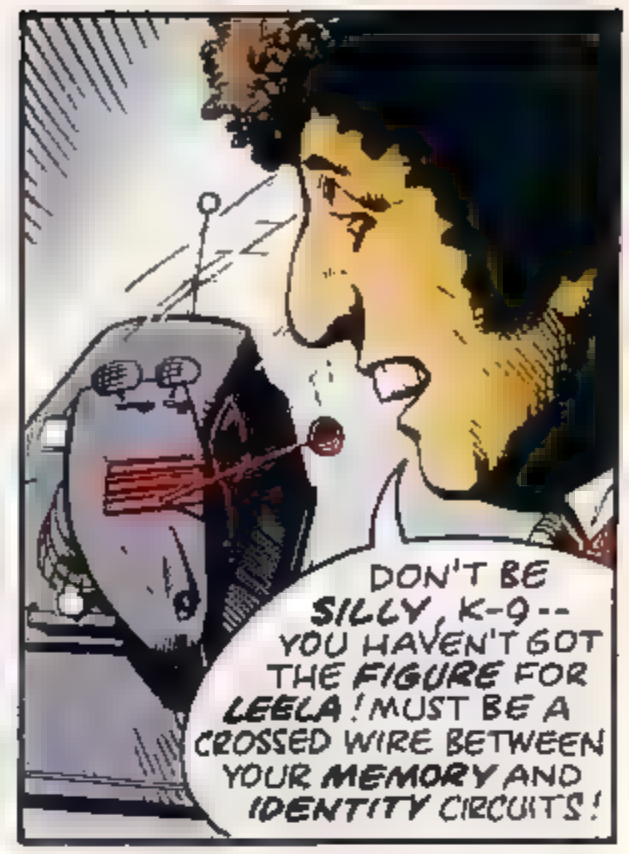

THE DOCTOR HEADS THE TARDIS TOWARDS EARTH...

...UNAWARE THAT HE HAS STOWAWAYS ON BOARD!
WE WILL FOLLOW THE SPY AS OUR LEADER HAS ORDERED. AND WHEN HE MAKES CONTACT WITH THE HATED MEEP...

...DETONATE THE BOMB IN HIS STOMACH ...BLOWING THEM BOTH INTO A BILLION PARTEKS!
NEXT WEEK: THE HUNT!

A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN - KNOWN AS 'THE MEEP' – HAS MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN BLACKCASTLE, WHERE HE IS HELPED BY TWO CHILDREN. MEANWHILE, THE DOCTOR ESCAPES FROM THE MEEP'S PURSUERS – UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE PERFORMED A SECRET OPERATION ON HIM!





SCRIPT MILLS + WAGNER ART DAVE GIBBONS

MEANWHILE, SHARON AND FUDGE HAVE FOUND THE MEEP'S CRASHED SHIP. AS THE FLAMES DIE DOWN...

IT'S BRILL! EH, SHAR?

IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU LIKE THAT SORT OF THING.

LOOKS LIKE A LONG-RANGE INTERCEPTOR! ARMED WITH TACHYON PHASERS AND ULTRA-SONIC TORPEDOES!

HOW D'YOU KNOW, SHOW-OFF?

'COS I'M INTO S.F. HARDWARE, THICKO!

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, LUKE! THIS IS STAR-ADMIRAL FUDGE HIGGINS TO STAR BASE SEVEN-ZERO-ALPHA! DO YOU COPY?

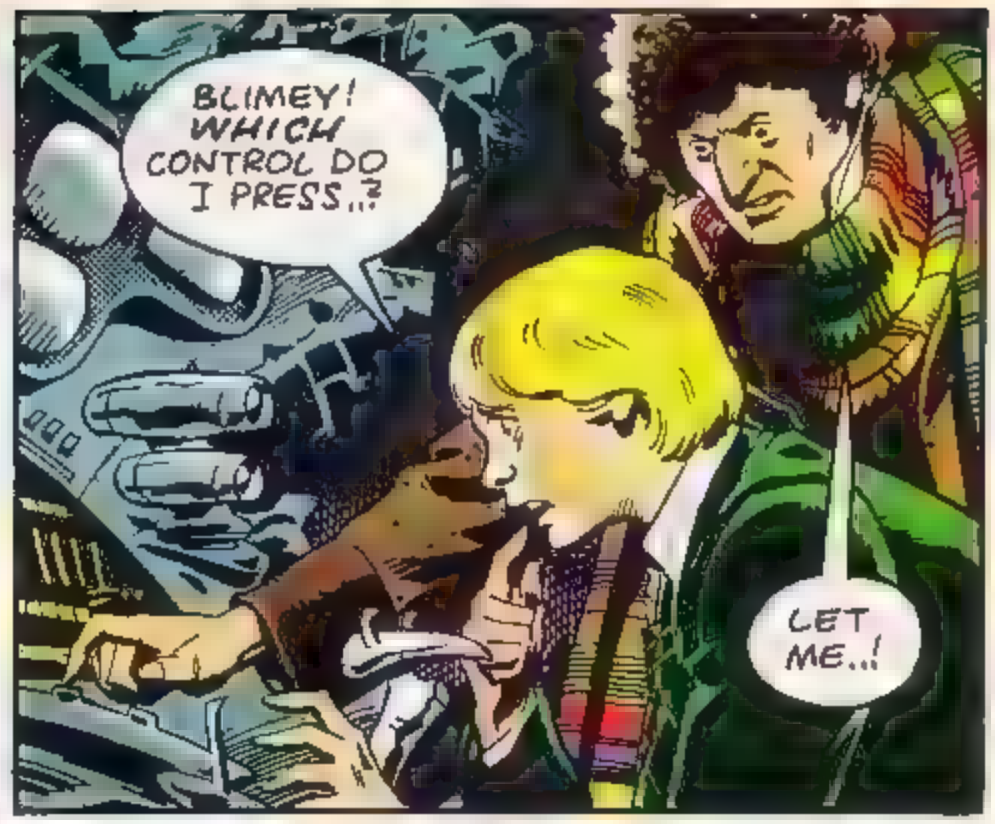
OH, SHUT YER FACE! IF THERE'S NOTHING THERE THAT'LL HELP THE MEEP--LET'S GO!

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE! IF SOMEONE FINDS OUT THAT WE'VE NICKED IN...

I'M SCARED, FUDGE!

SKREEK

AAAHHHH!



A LASER BOLT SHOT FROM THE SHIP!
NICE ONE!
EEEEEHHH!

AS THE WRARTH WARRIORS HELP THEIR FALLEN COMRADE...

MEANWHILE, SHARON TELLS THE DOCTOR THEIR SECRET...
..SO YOU FOUND THE 'MEEP' IN A GARDEN SHED? HOW EXCITING!
NAH. BIT AVERAGE, REALLY HE'S JUST AN OLD FUR-BAG!

LOOK, DOCTOR! THE MEEP'S COMING OUT TO GREET US! HE'S BETTER!
MEEP! MEEP!

GET HIM FROM THE PET SHOP, DID YOU, FUDGE?
NO, HE'S FROM ANOTHER GALAXY, MUM.
OH, THAT'S NICE, DEAR.

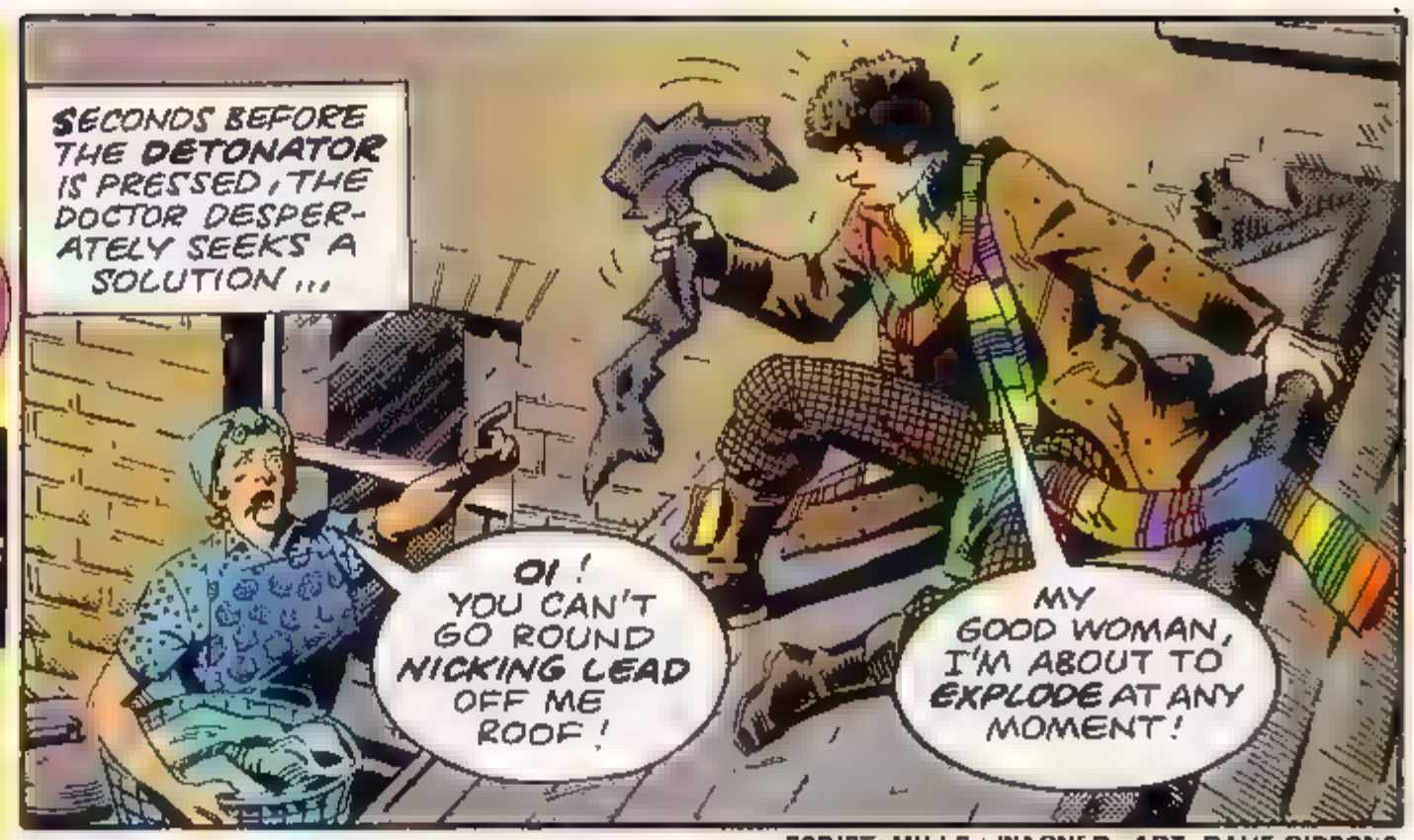
ISN'T HE LOVELY, DOCTOR..?
MEEP!
H'MM... I WONDER-- COULD THE OTHER ALIENS BE AFTER HIM? BUT, IF SO, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT PUZZLES ME...

THE WAY THEY LET US ESCAPE--IT WAS TOO EASY...! AND MY STOMACH ACHE... OH, NO! IT ALL ADDS UP...!
WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR?

GET AWAY FROM ME, EVERY-ONE! I'VE JUST REALISED...
I'M A LIVING BOMB!

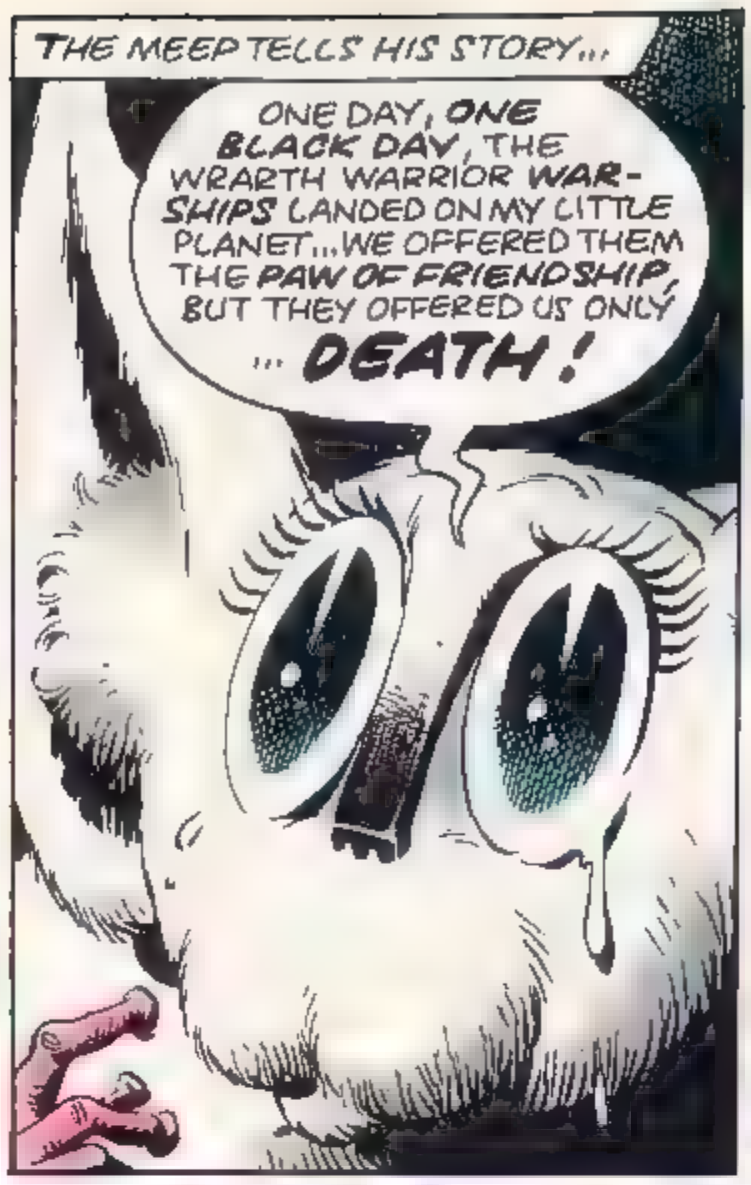
DETONATE!
NEXT WEEK:
DOCTOR DEATH!

A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN – KNOWN AS THE MEEP' – HAS CRASH LANDED IN BLACK CASTLE WHERE HE IS HELPED BY THE DOCTOR AND TWO CHILDREN, BUT THE WRATH WARRIORS BITTER ENEMIES OF THE MEEP – HAVE PLANTED A BOMB INSIDE THE DOCTOR AND ARE READY TO DETONATE IT!

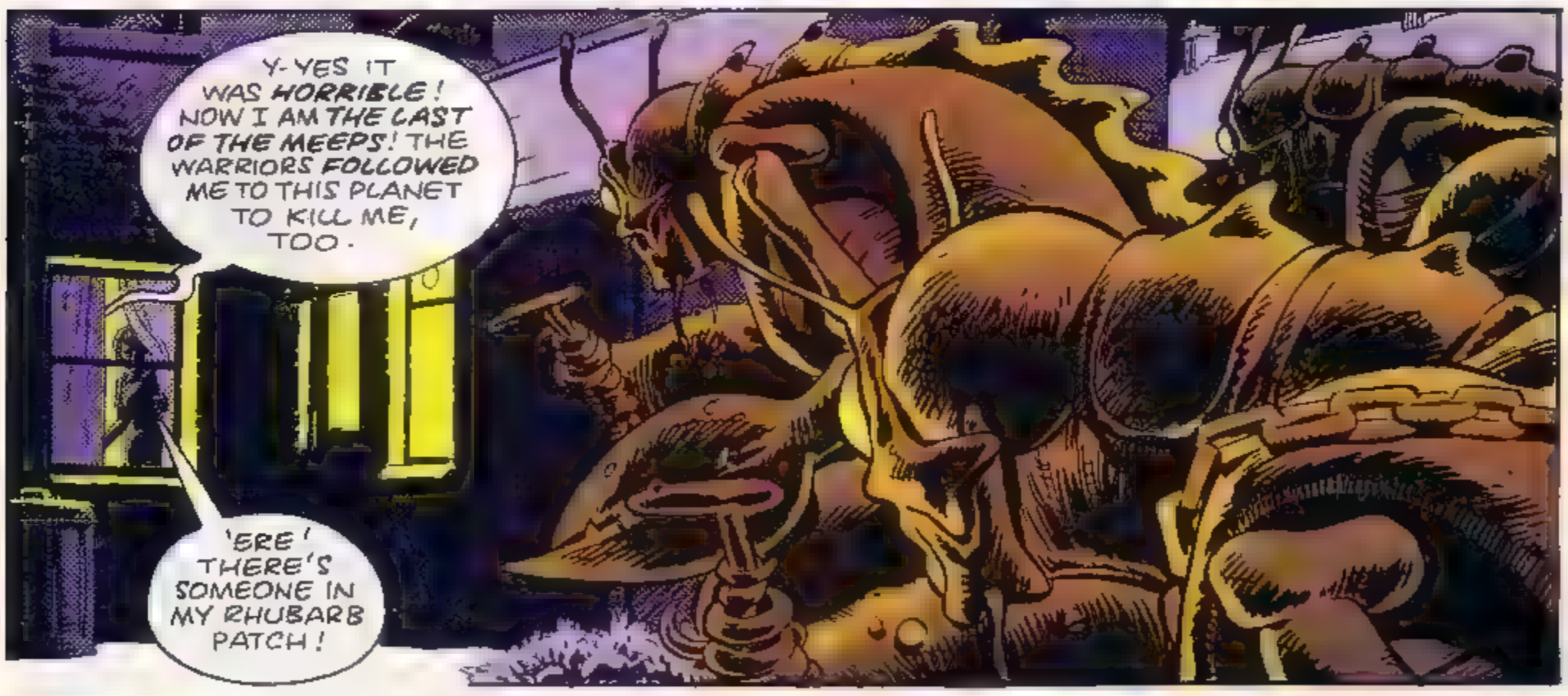


SCRIPT: MILLS + WAGNER ART DAVE GIBBONS.

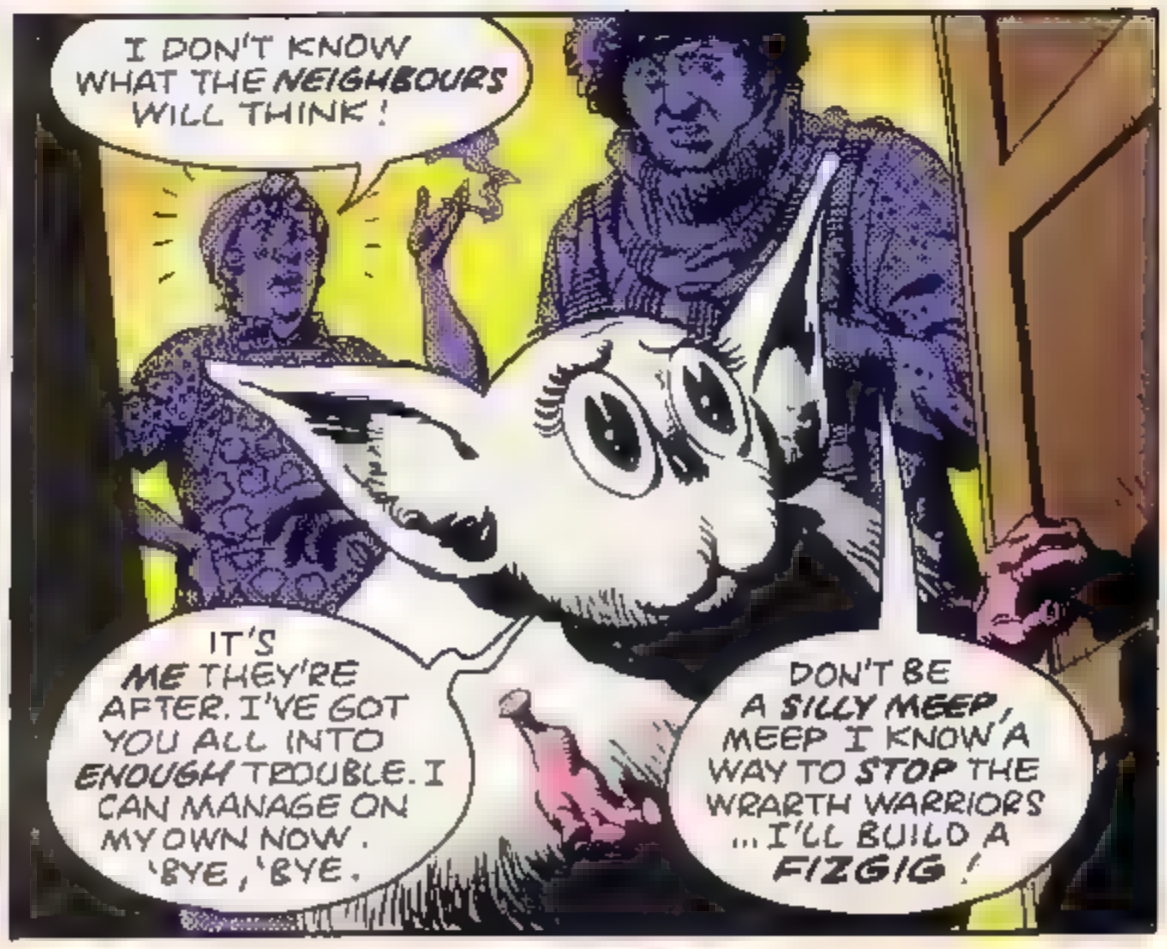
PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHY THE OTHER ALIENS ARE AFTER YOU? YOU HAVEN'T DONE SOMETHING... NAUGHTY?
OH, NO, DOCTOR!


THE MEEP TELLS HIS STORY...
ONE DAY, ONE BLACK DAY, THE WRARTH WARRIOR WARSHIPS LANDED ON MY LITTLE PLANET...WE OFFERED THEM THE PAW OF FRIENDSHIP, BUT THEY OFFERED US ONLY ... DEATH!

THE WARRIORS DESTROYED EVERYTHING! THEY DID TERRIBLE THINGS TO MY PEOPLE...THINGS I DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN. >SNUFFLE<
COR! TORTURE AND THAT...?


Y-YES IT WAS HORRIBLE! NOW I AM THE LAST OF THE MEEPS! THE WARRIORS FOLLOWED ME TO THIS PLANET TO KILL ME, TOO.
'ERE! THERE'S SOMEONE IN MY RHUBARB PATCH!

MRS. HIGGINS... THERE ARE ALIENS AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NEIGHBOURS WILL THINK!
IT'S ME THEY'RE AFTER. I'VE GOT YOU ALL INTO ENOUGH TROUBLE. I CAN MANAGE ON MY OWN NOW. 'BYE, 'BYE.
DON'T BE A SILLY MEEP, MEEP I KNOW A WAY TO STOP THE WRARTH WARRIORS ...I'LL BUILD A FIZGIG!

AND SO--

WHAT'S A FIZGIG, DOCTOR?

YOU'LL SEE, OR RATHER YOU WON'T SEE, WHEN IT'S SWITCHED ON.

IF I CAN JUST BORROW THAT PIECE OF GUM YOU'RE CHEWING, FUDGE--I MUST CONNECT THE HELIO-PHOTIC MODIFIER TO THE STEREOP-TICON.

ALL RIGHT. BUT I WANT IT BACK LATER.

MEEP! I'M SO GRATEFUL TO YOU, DOCTOR!

BUT THE MEEP'S THOUGHTS ARE FAR FROM GRATEFUL...!

YOU STUPID EARTH CREATURES! IT WAS EASY FOR A SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE TO FOOL YOU!

BUT IT IS STILL DISTASTEFUL TO HAVE THIS EARTH-CHILD STROKING THE FUR OF THE 'MOST-HIGH'. HE WHOSE COMMANDS HAVE MADE A THOUSAND PLANETS TREMBLE!

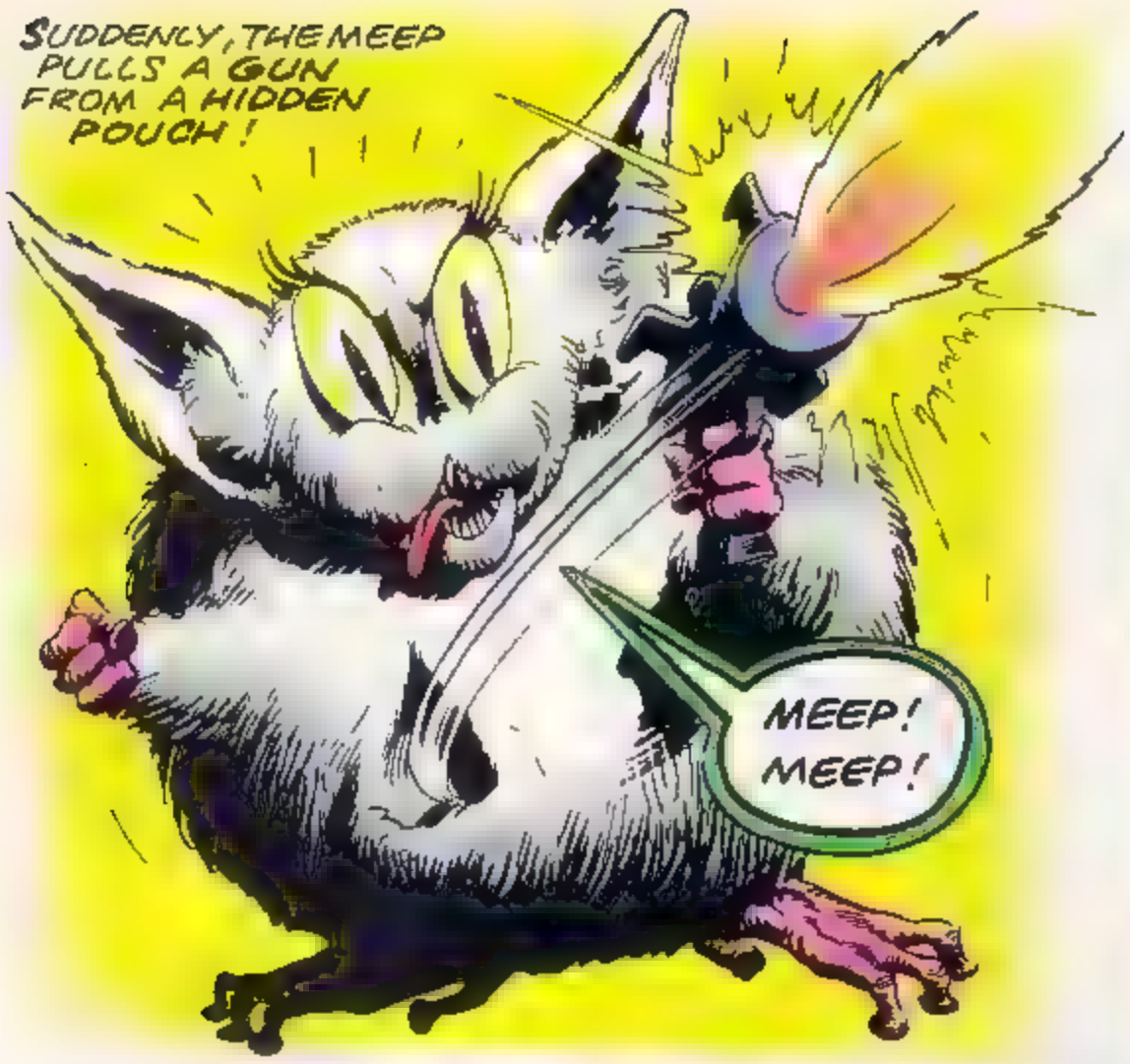
LATER SHE WILL BE PUNISHED FOR SUCH FAMILIARITY. THE 'MOST-HIGH' WILL ENJOY GIVING HER A GRUNDIAN BLOOD-NOG!

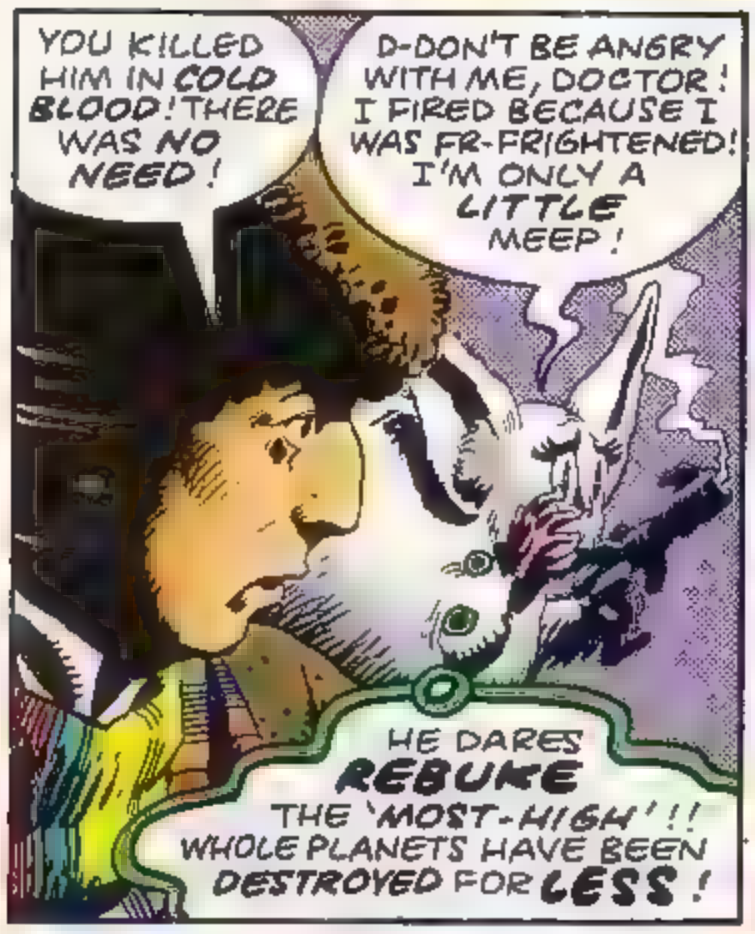
HERE THEY COME, DOCTOR!

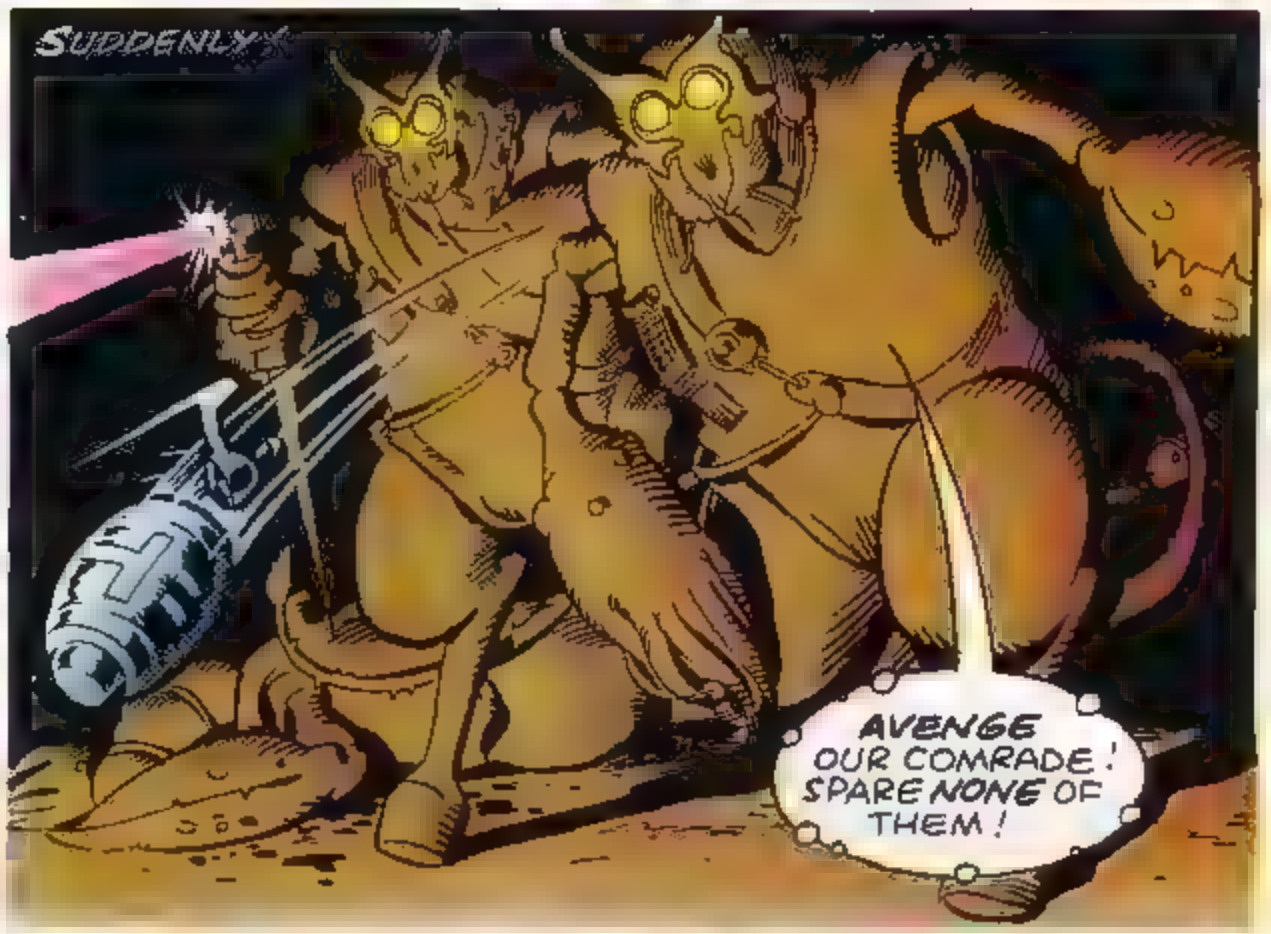
A QUICK ADJUSTMENT TO THE DICHROMAT DAMPER AND WE'RE READY TO SWITCH ON!

A FIZGIG PROJECTS ULTRA-WHITE LIGHT--OFF THE USUAL CHROMATIC SCALE--IT SHOULD DAZZLE THE WARRIORS' INFRA-RED EYES!

IT'S WORKING, DOCTOR! IT'S DRIVING THEM BACK!



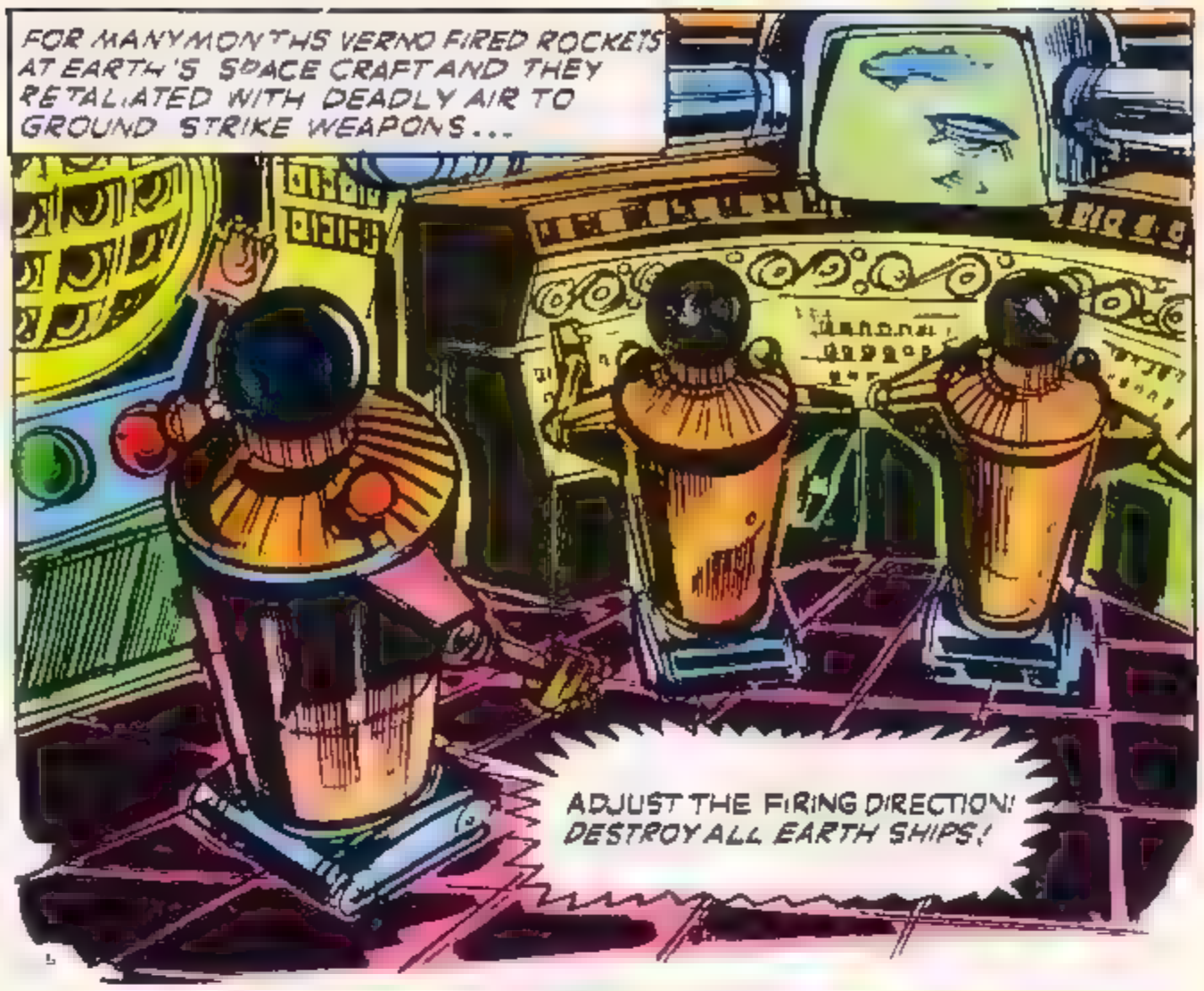


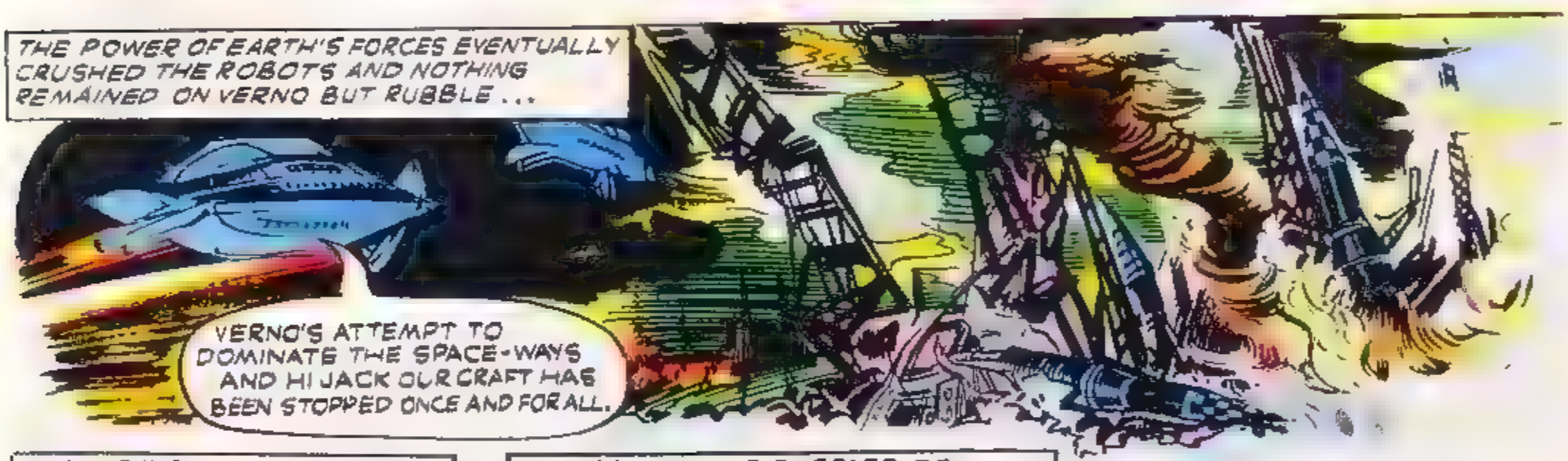


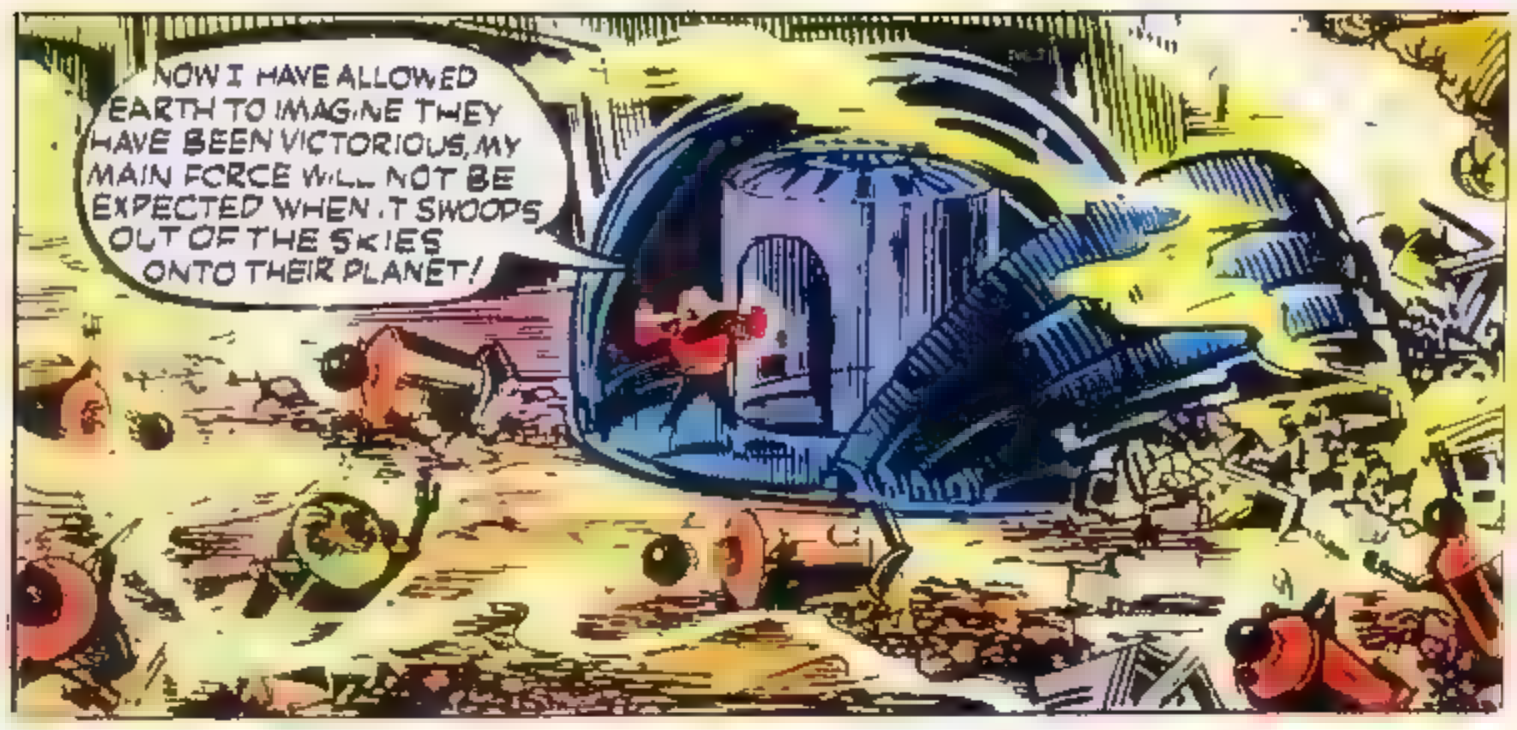
NEXT ISSUE: REVENGE of WRATH!

DOCTOR

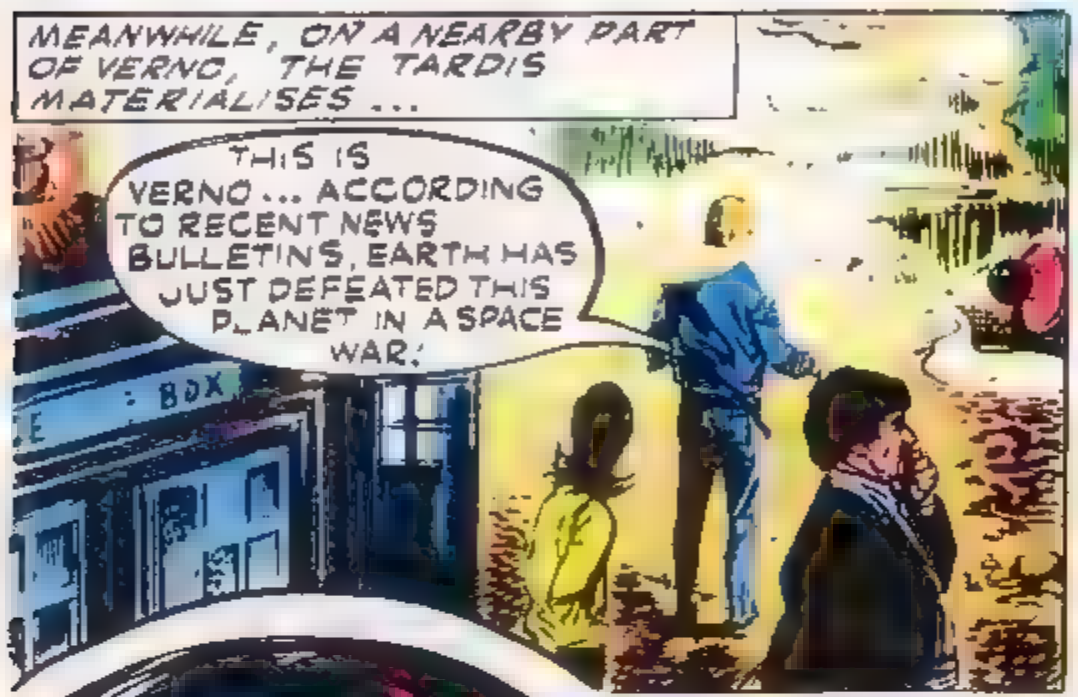
IN the Thirtieth Century A.D. a savage space war rages between robots on the planet Verno and the rocket patrols of Earth

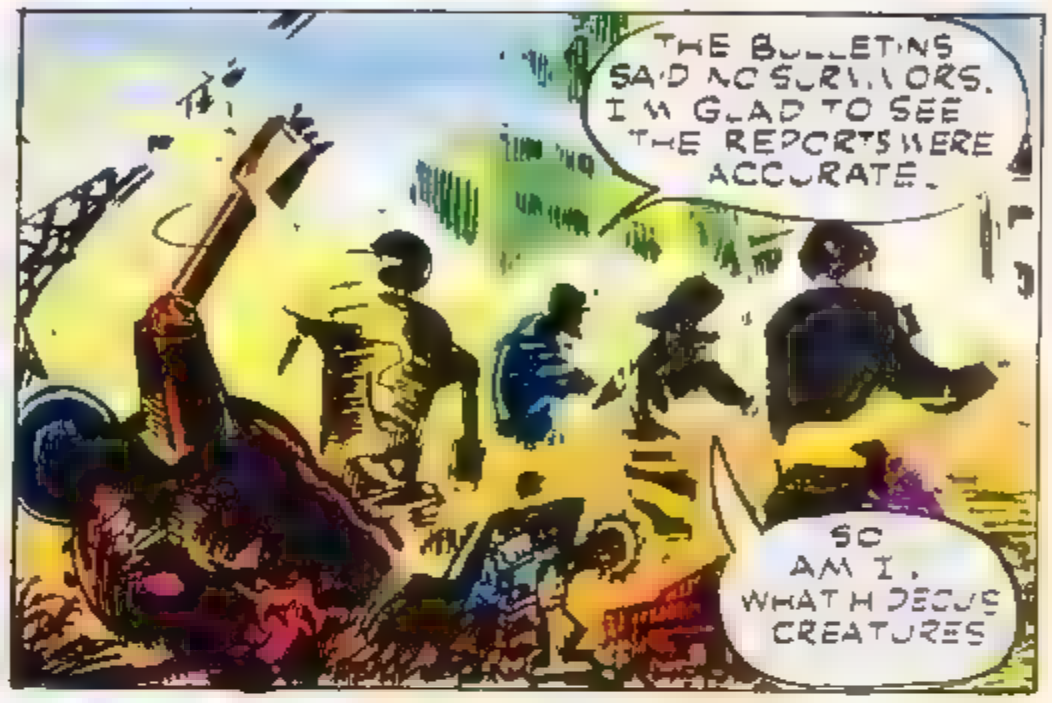


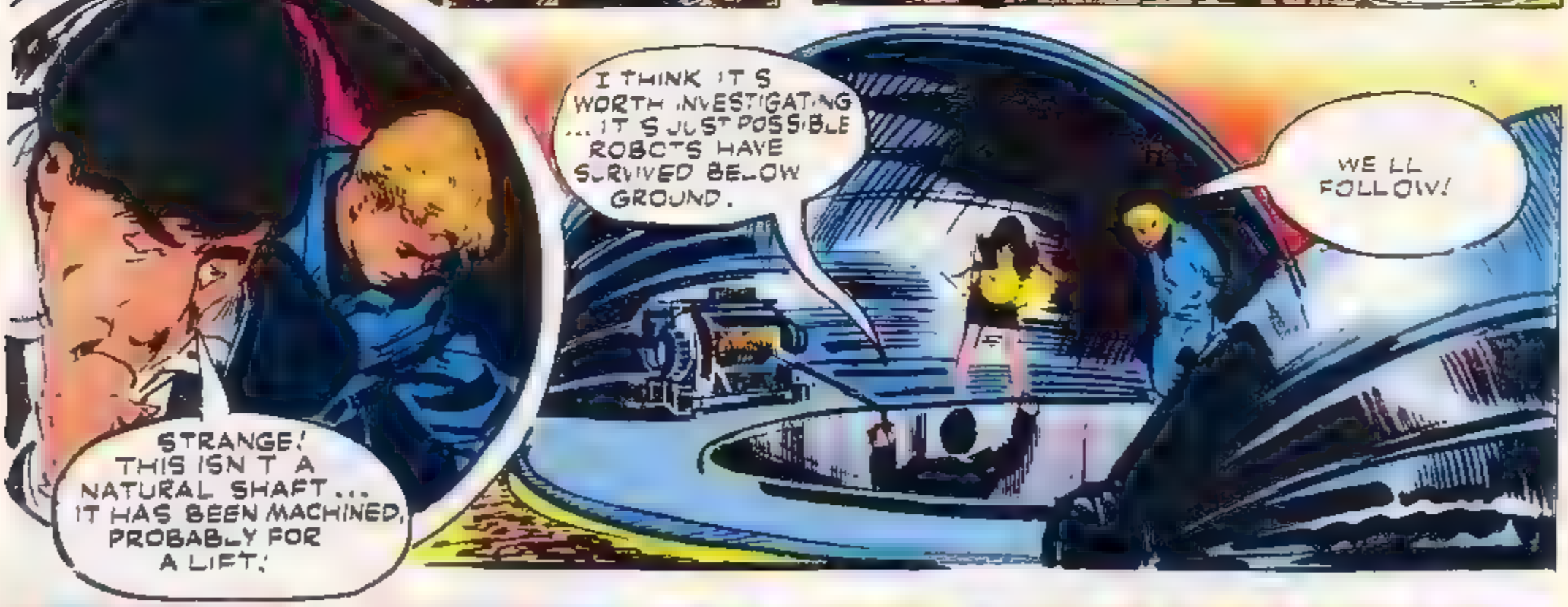


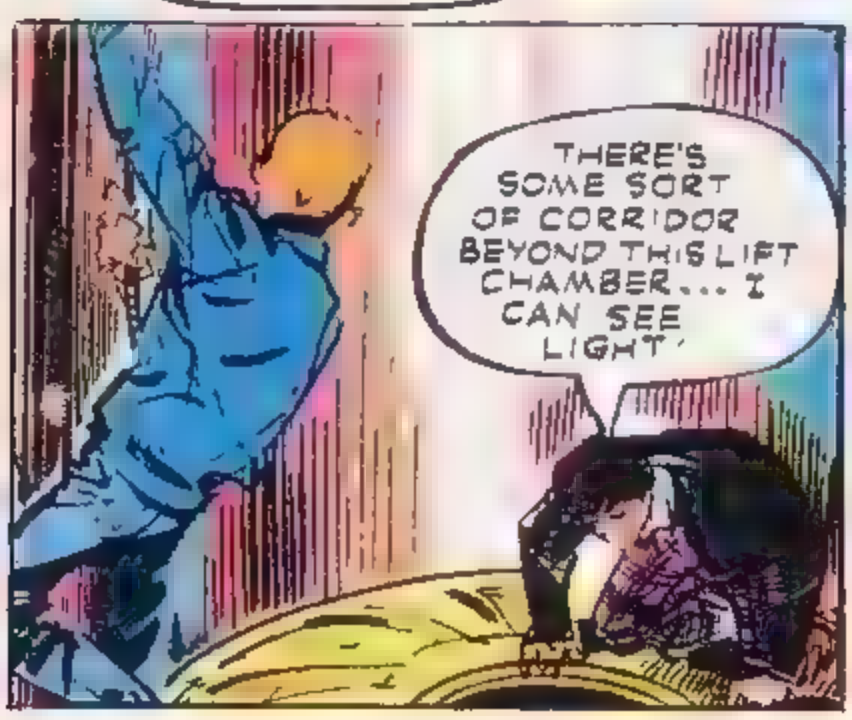

NOW I HAVE ALLOWED EARTH TO IMAGINE THEY HAVE BEEN VICTORIOUS, MY MAIN FORCE WILL NOT BE EXPECTED WHEN IT SWOOPS OUT OF THE SKIES ONTO THEIR PLANET!

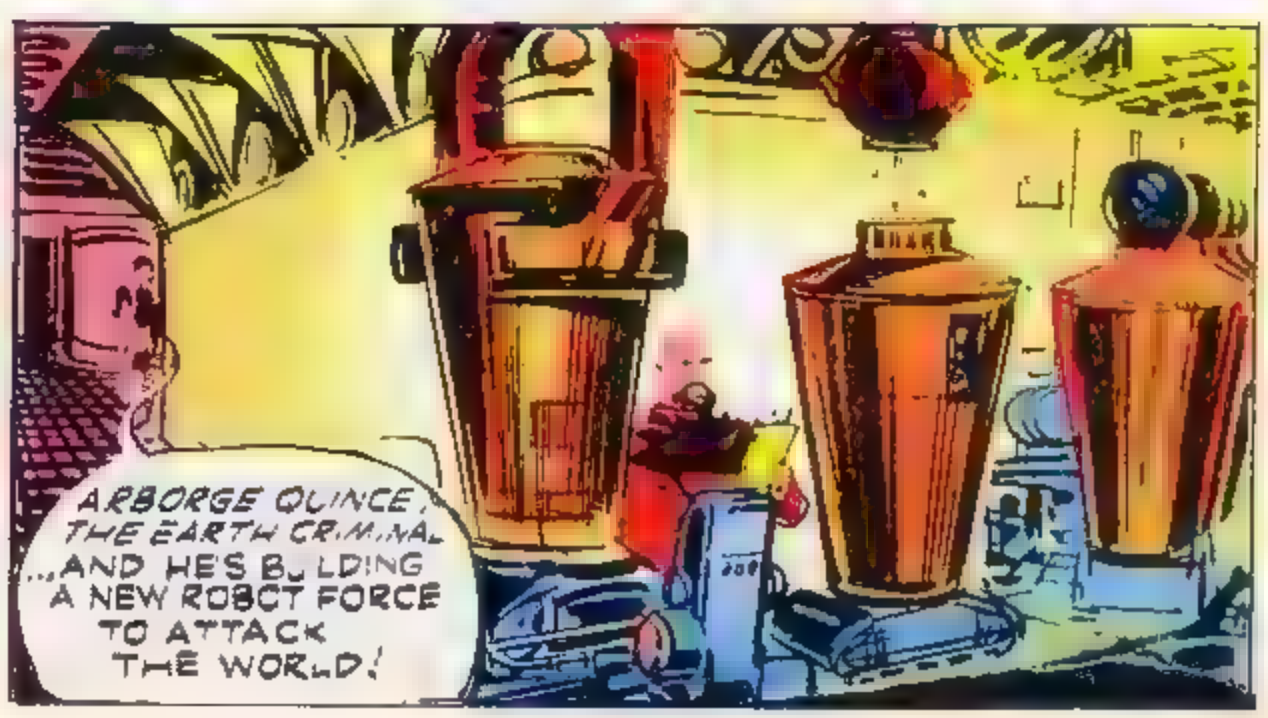
MORE ROBOTS ARE ALREADY ON MY PRODUCTION LINE! WHEN THEY ARE READY I SHALL HURL THEM AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF EARTH!


MEANWHILE, ON A NEARBY PART OF VERNO, THE TARDIS MATERIALISES ...
THIS IS VERNO ... ACCORDING TO RECENT NEWS BULLETINS, EARTH HAS JUST DEFEATED THIS PLANET IN A SPACE WAR!
BOX

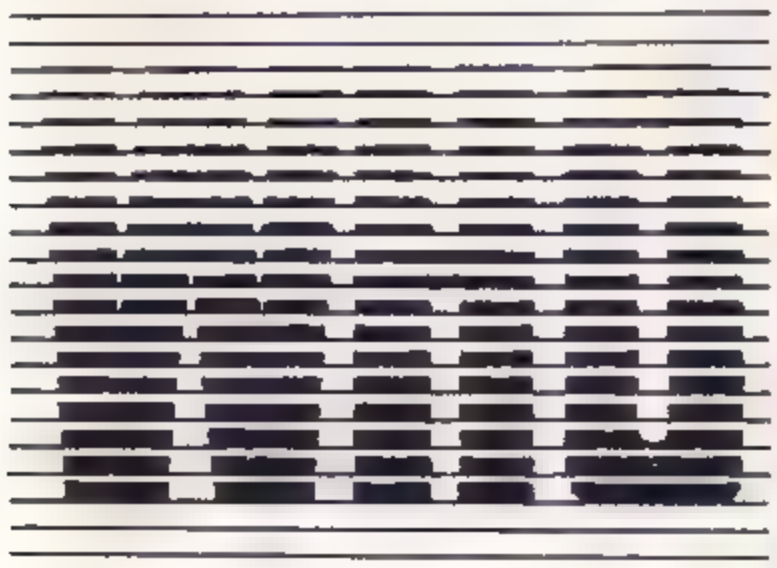

THE BULLETINS SAID NO SURVIVORS. I'M GLAD TO SEE THE REPORTS WERE ACCURATE.
SO AM I. WHAT HIDEOUS CREATURES


I THINK IT'S WORTH INVESTIGATING ... IT'S JUST POSSIBLE ROBOTS HAVE SURVIVED BELOW GROUND.
WE'LL FOLLOW!
STRANGE! THIS ISN'T A NATURAL SHAFT ... IT HAS BEEN MACHINED, PROBABLY FOR A LIFT!

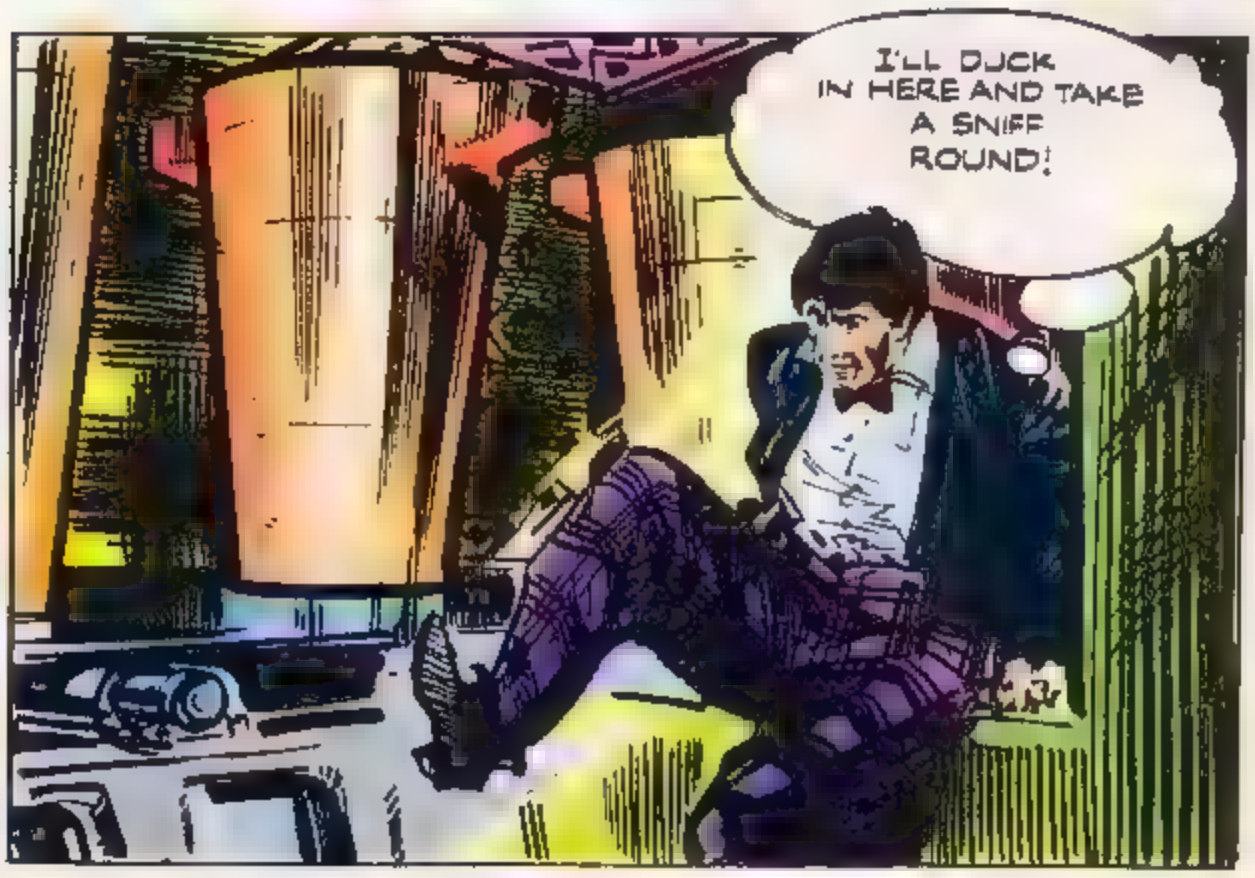

THERE'S SOME SORT OF CORRIDOR BEYOND THIS LIFT CHAMBER ... I CAN SEE LIGHT!

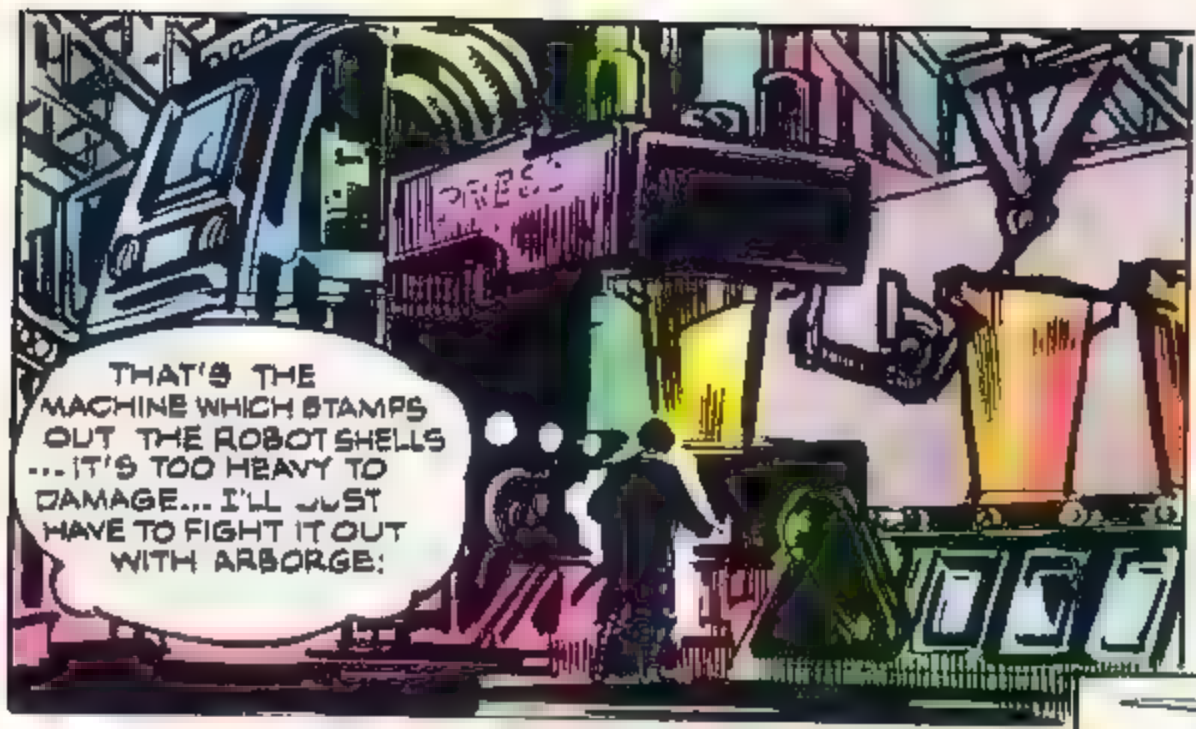

ARBORGE QUINCE, THE EARTH CRIMINAL ...AND HE'S BUILDING A NEW ROBOT FORCE TO ATTACK THE WORLD!

DOCTOR

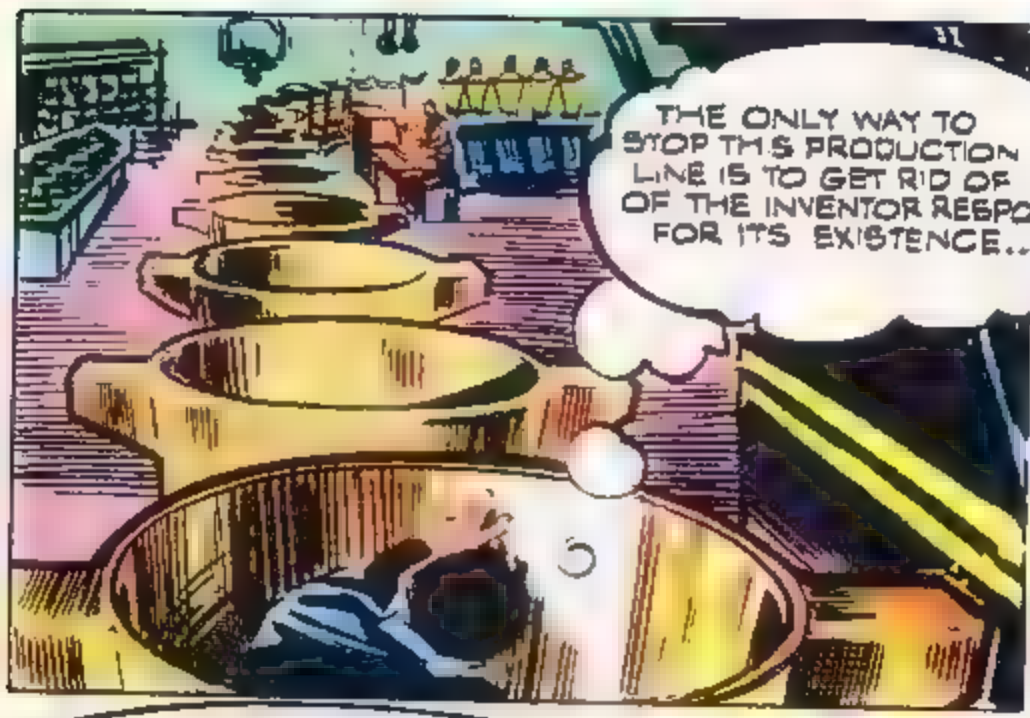


A savage space war between Earth and Verno has resulted in the destruction of all Verno's robots. When Dr. Who arrives on the planet, he is horrified to find the Earth criminal, Arborge Quince, producing more robots underground . .

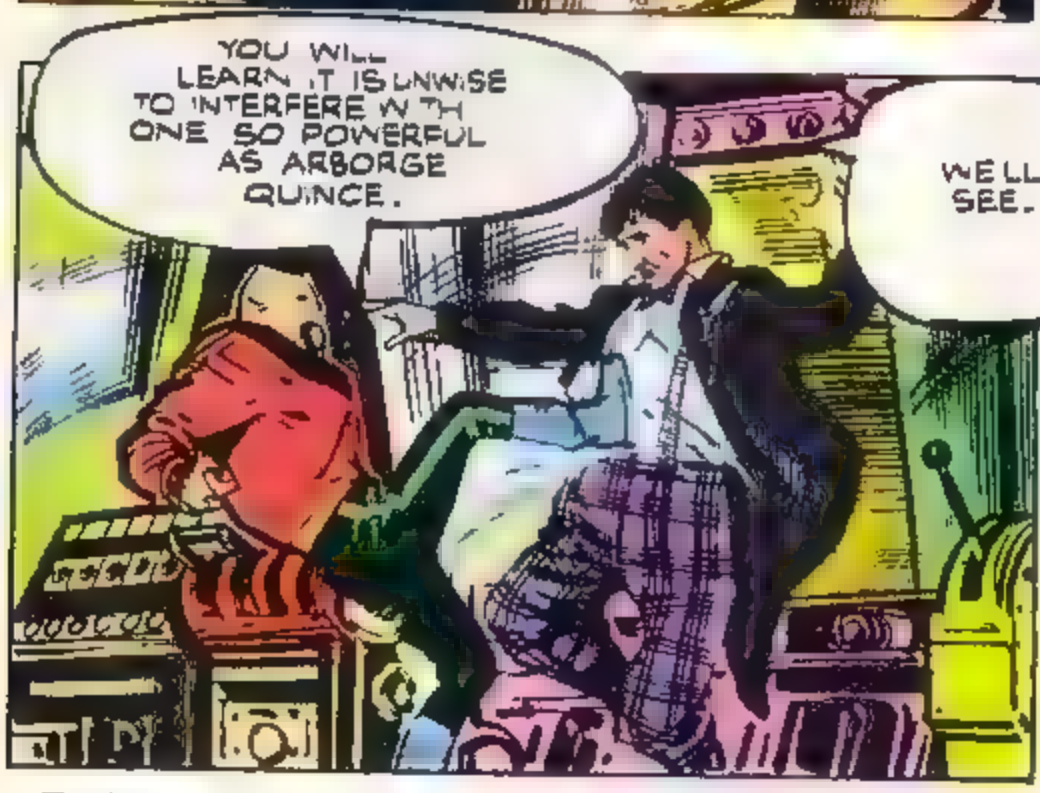



THAT'S THE MACHINE WHICH STAMPS OUT THE ROBOT SHELLS ...IT'S TOO HEAVY TO DAMAGE... I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH ARBORGE!

I'LL HIDE INSIDE THIS SHELL... IT'LL TAKE ME RIGHT PAST MR. QUINCE!

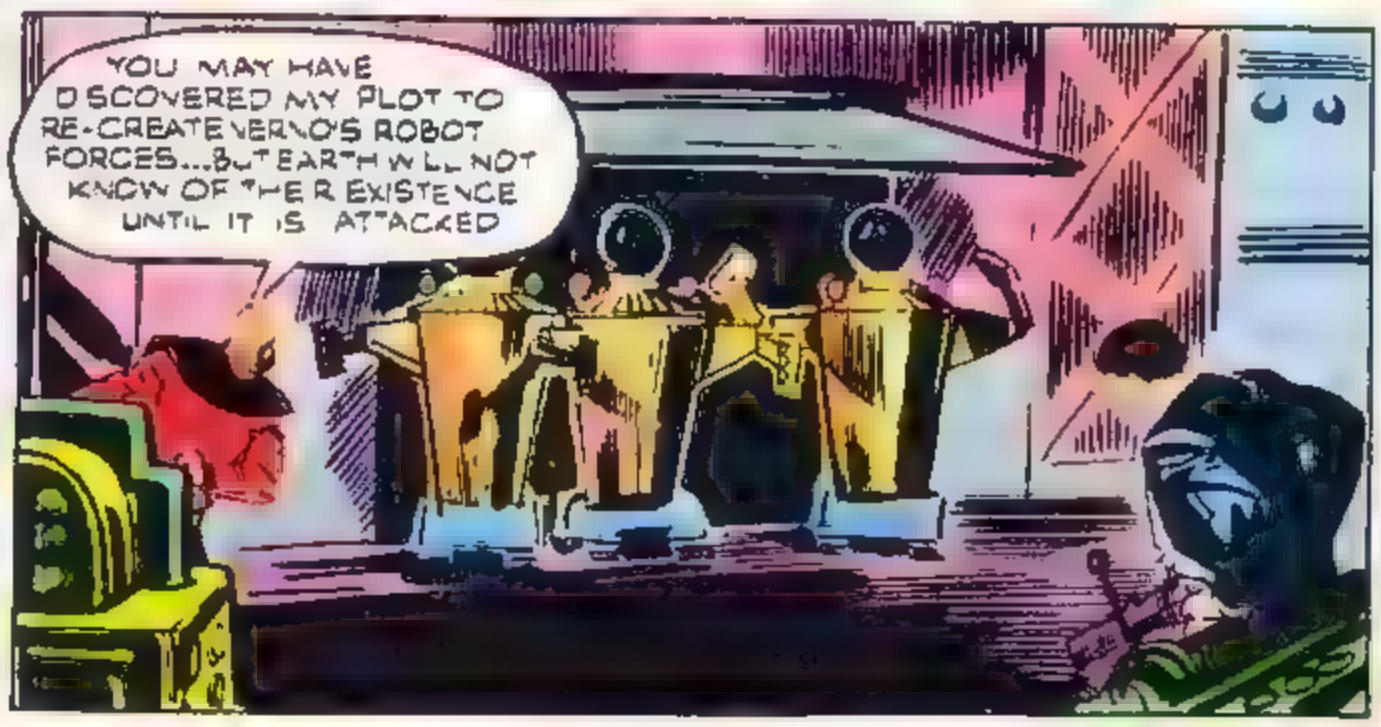

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS PRODUCTION LINE IS TO GET RID OF OF THE INVENTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS EXISTENCE...

SO THIS IS TO BE ANOTHER OF YOUR CRIMES AGAINST EARTH MR QUINCE?
...AN INTRUDER.


YOU WILL LEARN IT IS UNWISE TO INTERFERE WITH ONE SO POWERFUL AS ARBORGE QUINCE.
WELL SEE.

PREPARE FOR PUNISHMENT!
UH!
ON
OFF

COMPLETED ROBOTS!... AND THEY'RE READY FOR ACTION...


YOU MAY HAVE DISCOVERED MY PLOT TO RE-CREATE VERNO'S ROBOT FORCES...BUT EARTH WILL NOT KNOW OF THEIR EXISTENCE UNTIL IT IS ATTACKED

THE ICE WARRIORS

THREE

by Brian Hayles

directed by
Derek Martinus

transmitted
25th November 1967

"It is working!" exclaims Varga, a note of triumph entering his rasping voice. Melting ice cascades away as the process to free his fellow Martians from the glacier begins.

Victoria looks on, transfixed with terror, as the now familiar form of a towering alien begins to reveal itself. Penley silently observes the unfolding horror from a safe distance.

At dawn, Victoria's search party begins to assemble. The Doctor warns Jamie to keep a careful eye on Arden, who he thinks has underestimated how dangerous the creature is.

"We don't know how many of them there are," Arden cautions the others, "so we'll have to tread carefully."

"We both know that I'm responsible for what has happened," he continues. "If I hadn't brought that creature back here in the first place, none of this would have occurred."

"I also caused the death of Davis," he laments. "I can't forget that either." Clent struggles to sympathise with the Scientist before the party leave.

Clent looks for Miss Garrett (he refutes the Doctor's suggestion that they address her less formally) so she can show the Doctor the ropes.

"Just remember," the Doctor impresses on the Leader, "I am not a member of your staff – I'm just a working guest as you might say." The Doctor's curiosity is aroused when Clent says that adhering to regulations led to Penley's eventual breakdown.

"I assure you," Penley tells Storr, "what I saw was very real - and terrifying."
"You've been out in the mountains too long," scoffs his fellow scavenger. "It takes some people that way – especially the brainy ones."

As Penley continues to prepare their meal, he tells Storr he is determined to discover what is going on. They are soon alerted by a sound outside, which Penley assumes to be someone who tracked him from the base

He tells Storr to hide. "We don't want you carted off to Africa yet."

Going to confront the intruder, Penley is surprised to discover Miss Garrett.

"We're in desperate trouble at the base," she tells him. "You're the only one who can help us." Penley's reply is dismissive: "Clent doesn't need me. All he needs is a mirror – preferably rose-tinted."

"He does need you," she insists, "to make the ioniser work again." Penley laughs as he imagines Clent being forced to admit failure to World Control. "Poor old Clent! He never could face the music."

"It was typical of him to send you instead of armed guards," he scoffs, still reticent to help. "He doesn't know I'm here," she protests. Softening her voice, she puts her hand on his shoulder. "*I'm* asking you."

He remains adamant. "Jane, I chose this existence. I chose it because I refuse to be sucked into that computerised antheap you call a civilisation. Machines corrode and rust, but mankind goes on!"

"You leave me no alternative," she says, brandishing a small gun.

"You will come – and now!" "You must be desperate," he replies, "but tranquilising me isn't going to make it any easier – you'd never be able to carry me all that way!" Before she can threaten him again, Jane is attacked by Storr, who knocks her gun away.

Penley tells Jane to leave, adding that if the ioniser continues to prove problematical then they should consult his notes on the omega factor. After she leaves, Storr seems more convinced about the 'ice warrior' and Penley decides to investigate further.

At the glacier-face, Varga has succeeded in revitalising his crew. Victoria's pleas to be released are met with immediate refusal.

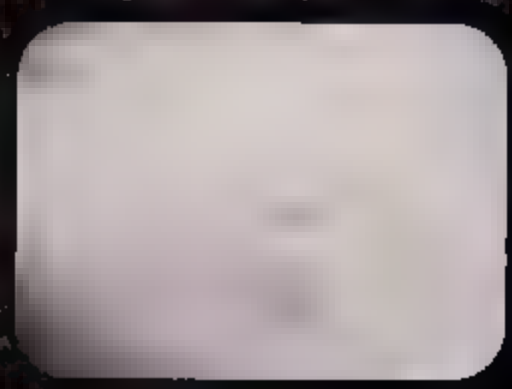
"Zondal," Varga addresses his second-in-command, "you will locate our buried space ship without delay. You will excavate sufficient space to form a cave – to act as a trap."

"A trap!" exclaims Victoria. "Who for?" Varga tells her not to interfere as the distraught girl argues that they need not be hostile towards the humans. She asks to know what her fate will be. "Bait," hisses Varga, "for the trap."

The Martians emit a rasping laugh and Varga orders the activation of their weapons. A deafening shrill fills the air.

Penley silently observes the scene as the cacophony shatters the ice.

Torrents of snow are blasted away to reveal a huge cavity.



The Doctor is thoroughly engrossed in his work on the ioniser, the surrounding area buried under piles of paper. Clent suggests that using a computer would have been easier – the Doctor simply asks to borrow a pencil.

Miss Garrett rushes in to face a harsh admonishment for her absence from Clent. She presents Penley's notes on the ioniser.

"Omega . . . omega . . . what does it mean?" mutters the Doctor as he scrabbles through the notes. Realisation soon dawns: "The omega factor!"

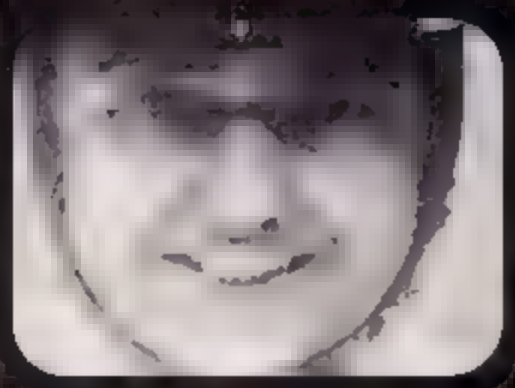
"Your friend Penley's very clever!" the Doctor beams. "You mean it could possibly work?" enquires Miss Garrett hopefully.

The Doctor congratulates Miss Garrett on looking up Penley's notes. "It's a pity that he turned traitor . . ." he adds, expectantly. "Clent might call him that," replies Miss Garrett, "but he's still the most brilliant scientist we have."

Arden attempts to contact Clent on his wrist communicator.

"The ice face," he reports, "it's been excavated into a cave."

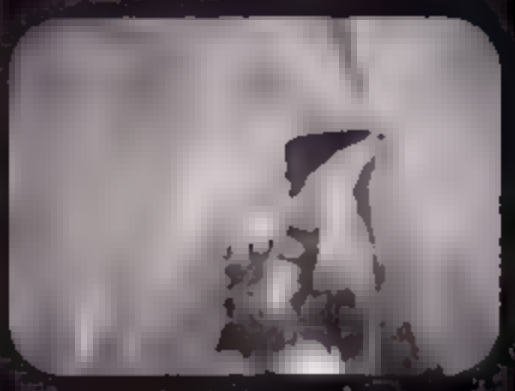
"Is there any sign of a space craft?" asks an anxious Clent as the transmission begins to break up. "Yes," replies Arden.



"At the back of the cave there's what looks like a metal door in the ice."

Arden reports that the area seems deserted, but Clent warns him to be careful nevertheless. "I don't fancy this place," says Jamie as Arden begins to measure radiation readings. Varga's squad silently observe them.

One of them activates its side-arm. The air contorts in the wake of the blast as Arden and Jamie collapse.



"You've killed them!" Victoria screams as the Martians emerge.

"It was necessary," hisses Varga.

"There may be more of them," Zondal warns his leader. "If more of them come we will destroy them," asserts Varga. "If no more of them come we will know that there are not enough of them to resist us."

They decide against destroying Victoria on the grounds that she may be useful bait again. Varga orders Zondal to make the ship's propulsion unit functional.

The bodies of Jamie and Arden are forgotten in the ensuing activity.

"Isn't it about time Arden and Jamie reported again?" asks the Doctor. "Yes," agrees Clent, "but you know what Arden is with his scientific curiosity." "Very human," adds the Doctor

Clent attempts to contact the missing Scientist, and both he and the Doctor watch hopefully for a response

"Jamie – answer me!" implores the Doctor. Arden's wrist communicator lies unattended . . .

. . . until it is discovered by Penley. He makes no attempt to communicate with the base, instead turning his attention to Jamie who is lying nearby.

"I'd never forgive myself if anything happened to Jamie," frets the Doctor. Clent, however, is more concerned about the detrimental effect to the project of Arden's absence.

"I'm not sure I trust your judgement yet, Doctor."

Miss Garrett intercedes between the two men as they begin to quarrel. She reassures the increasingly fraught Clent that the ioniser will indeed function to plan. The Doctor finds it d fficult to share Clent s elation while Victoria and Jamie are still lost outside.

Storr reacts aggressively to having "another mouth to feed" as Penley arrives back with Jamie. "You may hate scientists Storr, but there's no need to hate all human beings."

Jamie wakes suddenly, and is surprised and confused at his surroundings. He asks what happened to Arden. "Arden's dead," replies Penley. "You were both shot down by the warriors. They used some kind of ray-gun."

Arden tells Jam e that Victoria is still alive. The Scotsman desperately tries to rally himself, and the others, into rescuing her. The strain, however, is too much and he collapses back into unconsciousness

Inside the cave, Victoria's guards let her out of their sight. Seeing an opportunity, Victoria edges towards the body of Arden.

She finds his discarded wrist communicator and struggles to make contact with the base

"This is Victoria," she whimpers, her teeth chattering through the cold and sheer nervousness, "calling the Doctor or Leader Clent."

"Please answer me," she begs. Her transmission is monitored . . .

. . . but not only by the base crew. "Commander," hisses an anxious Zondal, "she will betray us." Varga examines the screen carefully. "She has courage, but she must also be stupid to think that we would not watch her every move. She must be stopped."

"Victoria – where are you?" calls out the Doctor. She tells them that she is inside a cave, and that Jamie and Arden have been shot.

The Doctor makes no attempt to hid his deep concern. Clent, however, seems more interested in getting details of the Martian propulsion units before he activates the ioniser. "Keep calm girl. Tell us about the space craft first."

"Arden's dead and Jamie has disappeared!" she screams. "Don't you understand? They'll stop at nothing!" While she pleads with Clent to listen to her a cannon-like device appears from the door behind her

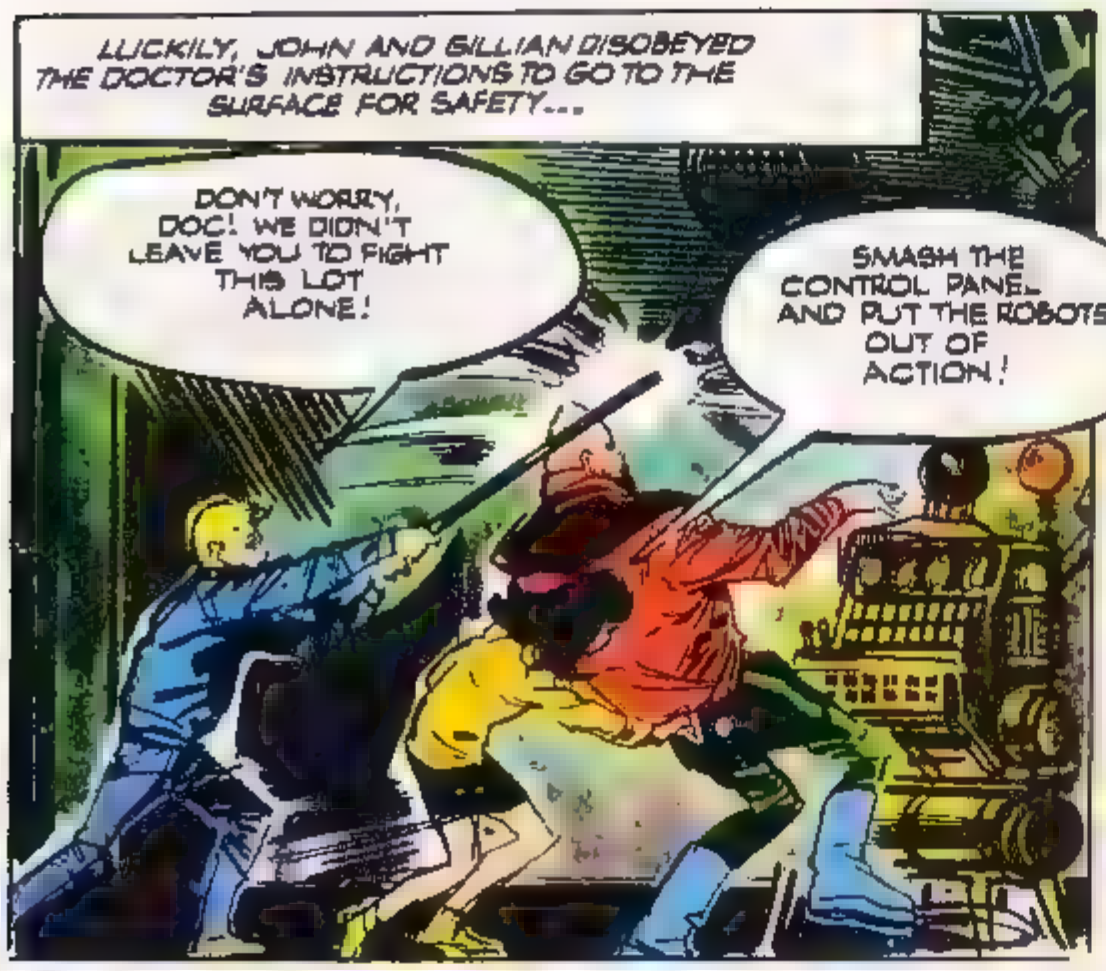
Varga and Zondal monitor the scene, carefully training the emerging weapon on the terrified girl. With the huge gun in place, Zondal turns to Varga. "Ready to fire . . ."

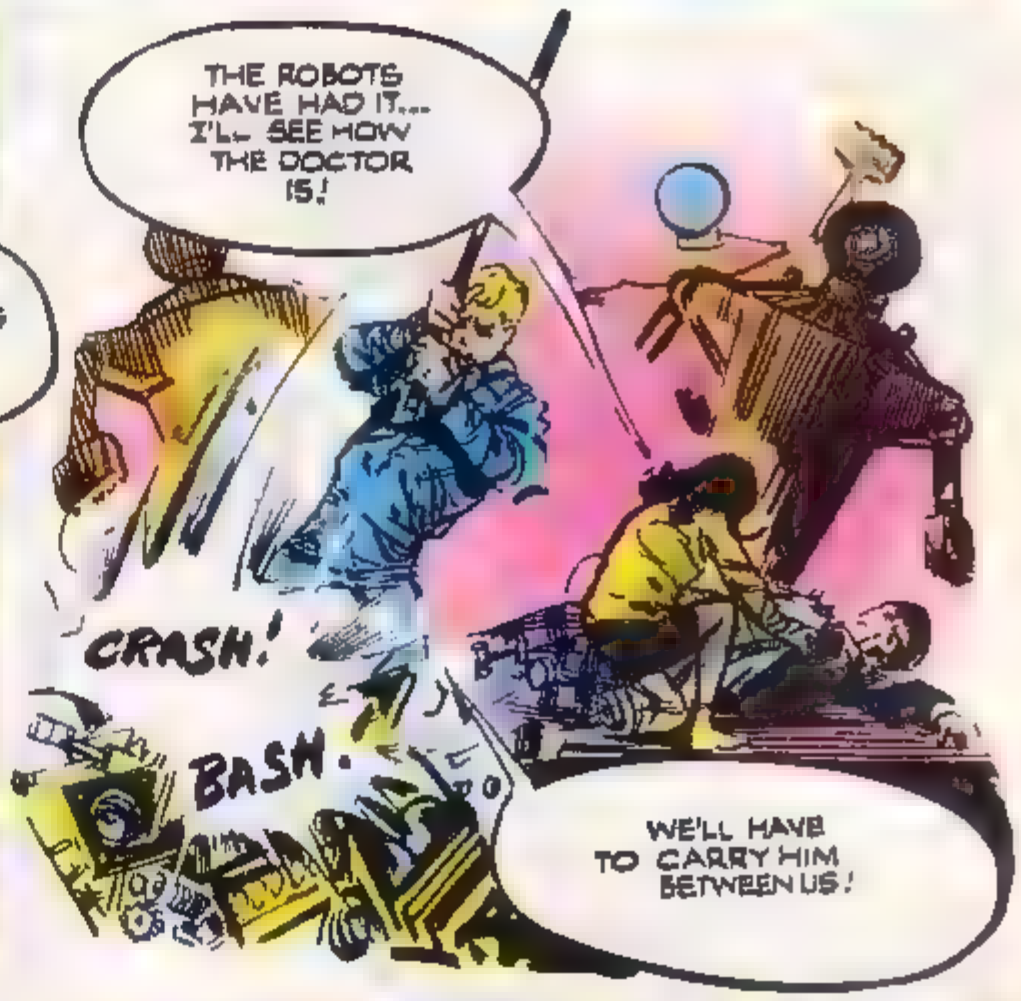
The Ice Warriors continues in Issue 218 of **Doctor Who Magazine**, on sale 29th September.

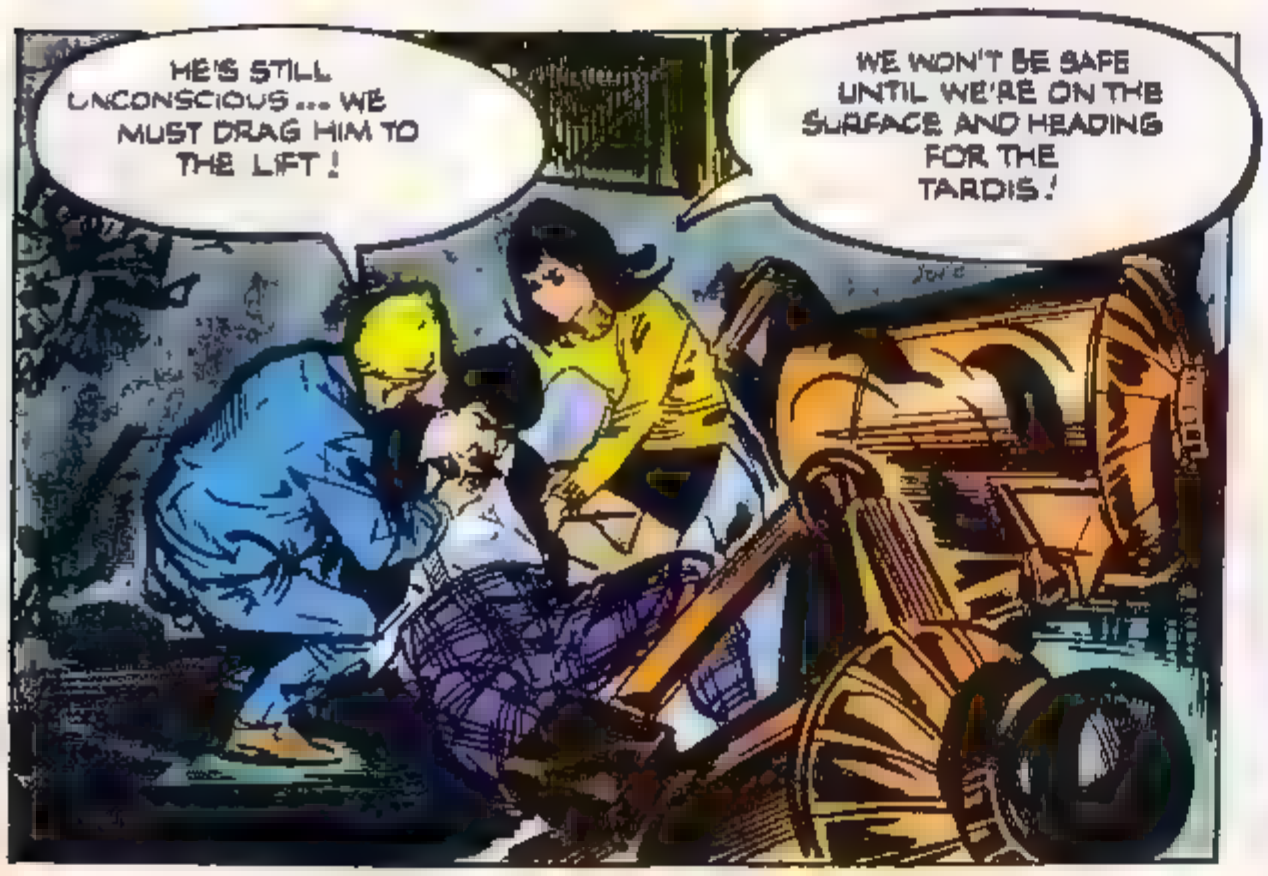
Compiled by Marcus Hearn

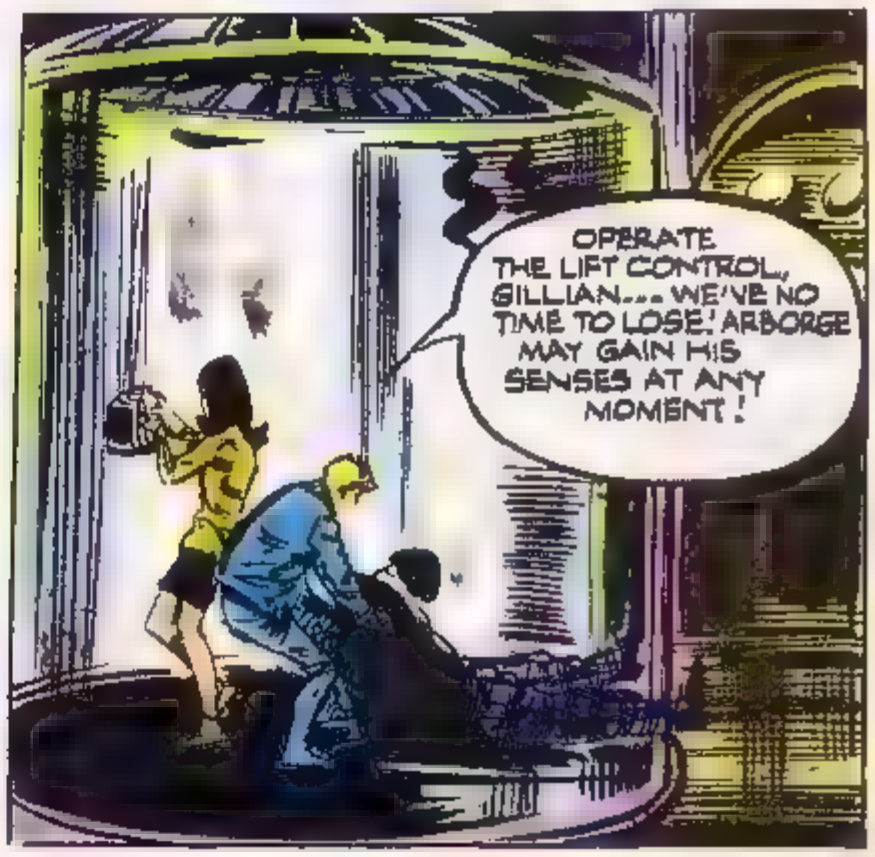
DOCTOR

DR. WHO discovers that Arborge Quince, an Earth criminal who has been banished to the planet Verno, is making robots for a surprise attack on Earth. When he confronts Quince in his laboratory, the Doctor is attacked by three robots . . .









ONCE AT THE TARDIS WE'LL RADIO EARTH AND ASK THEM TO SEND A ROCKET PATROL TO DESTROY THIS ROBOT FACTORY!

MEANWHILE BELOW GROUND, ARBORGE IS RECOVERING...

BY THE POWERS, THEY'RE ESCAPING IN MY LIFT!

QUINCE MOVES QUICKLY INTO ACTION AND SENDS ROBOTS FROM AN ADJACENT CHAMBER SPIRALLING TO THE SURFACE...

MY EMERGENCY ESCALATOR TO THE SURFACE WILL ENABLE THESE FOUR ROBOTS TO CUT THE SPACE TRAVELLERS OFF FROM THEIR SPACE VEHICLE!

EXPRESS ROCKET SHAFT

ROBOTS ONLY

THEY'RE PROBABLY MAKING FOR THEIR SPACE CRAFT TO RADIO EARTH ABOUT MY SECRET ROBOT FORCE!...

I'LL RUN ON AHEAD AND RADIO EARTH! YOU TWO TRY AND IMMOBILISE THE LIFT SO THAT WE CAN'T BE FOLLOWED!

MEANWHILE...

WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN!

BUT ARBORGE'S ROBOTS HAVE ALREADY REACHED THE SURFACE, CUTTING THE DOCTOR OFF FROM JOHN AND GILLIAN...

A SQUAD OF ROBOTS BETWEEN US AND THE TARDIS! THE GAMES UP!

DOCTOR! HELP US! WE'RE CUT OFF...

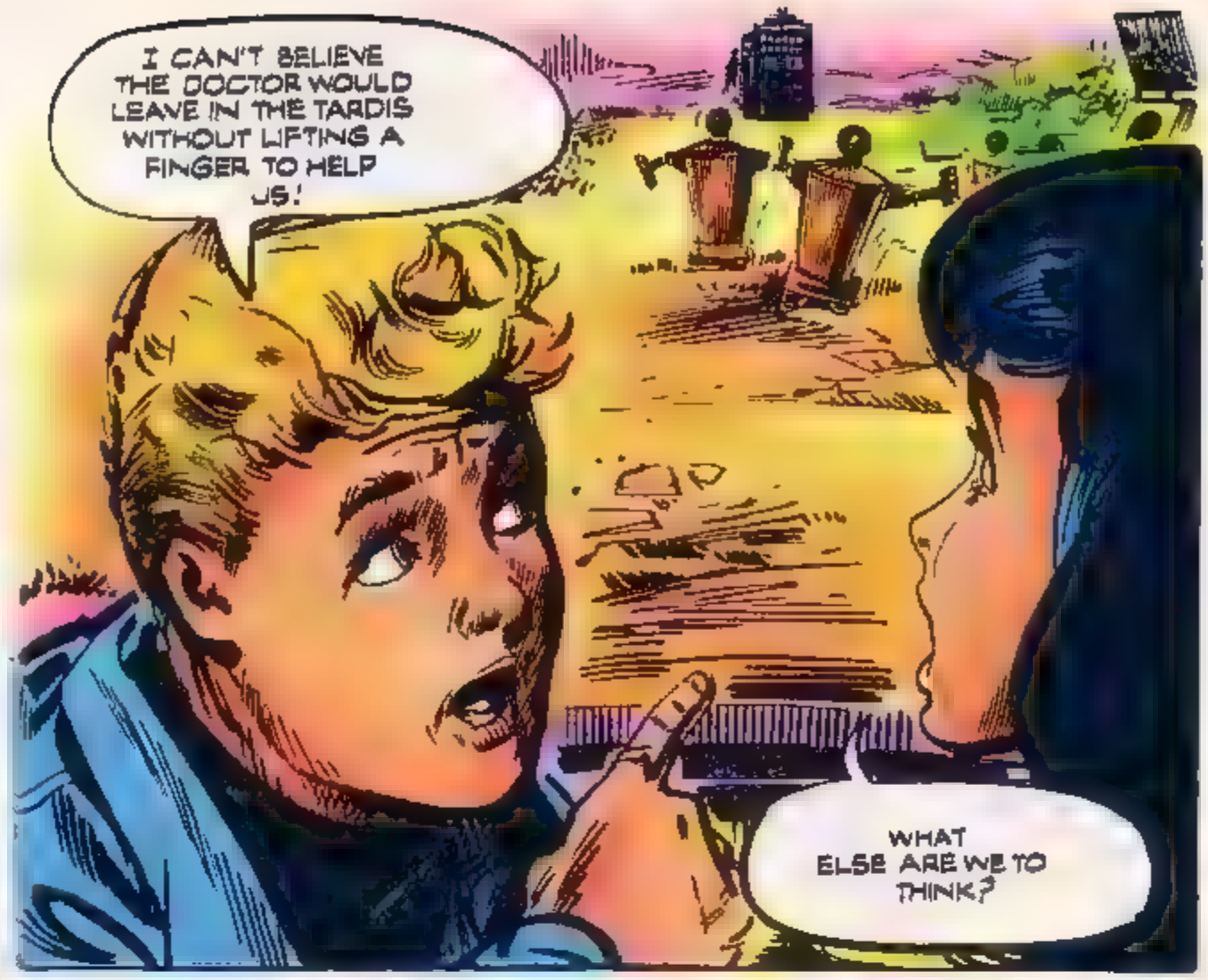
DON'T WORRY... HE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

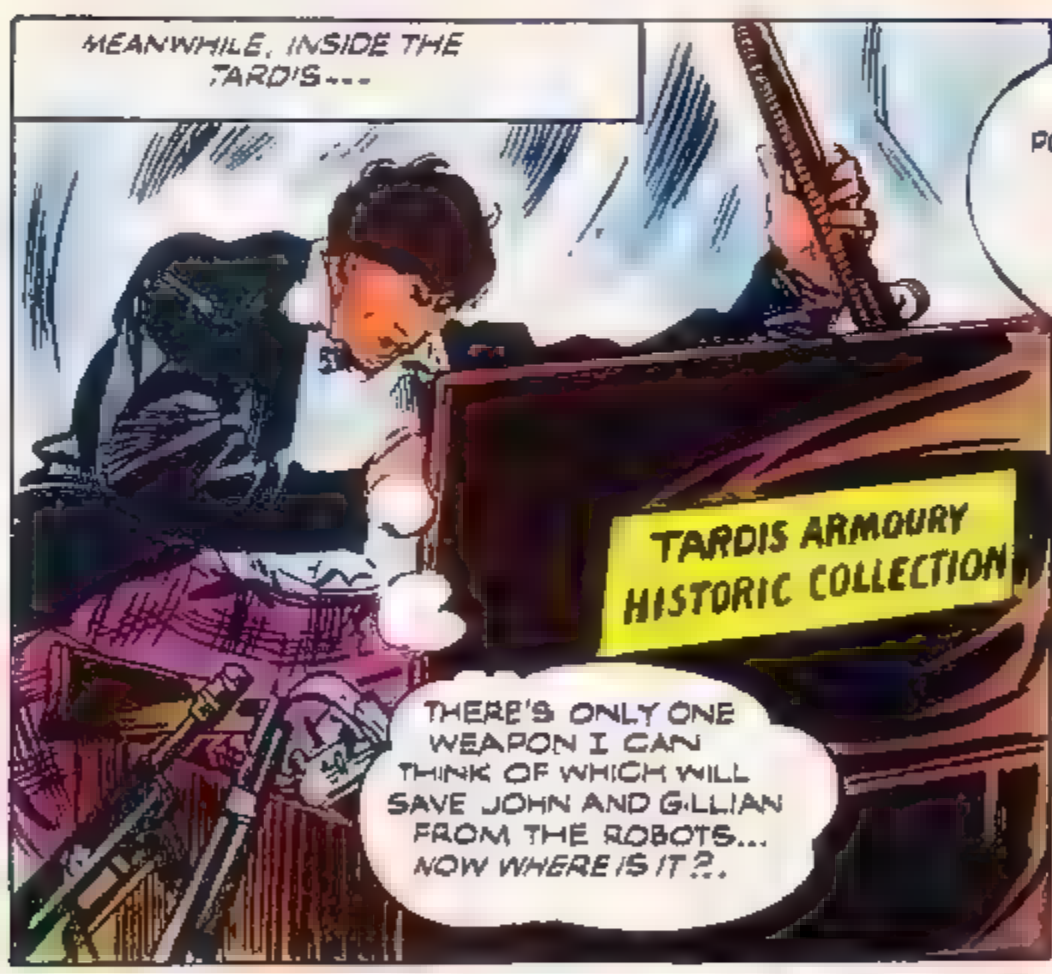
...WHAT'S THE DOCTOR DOING? HE'S GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT US!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

DOCTOR

In a desperate bid to reach the Tardis, Dr. Who, John and Gillian escape from the underground factory where Arborge Quince is producing robots for an attack on Earth. However, Quince's robots cut the youngsters off from the Doctor, who darts into the Tardis, apparently leaving his comrades to face the robots alone!

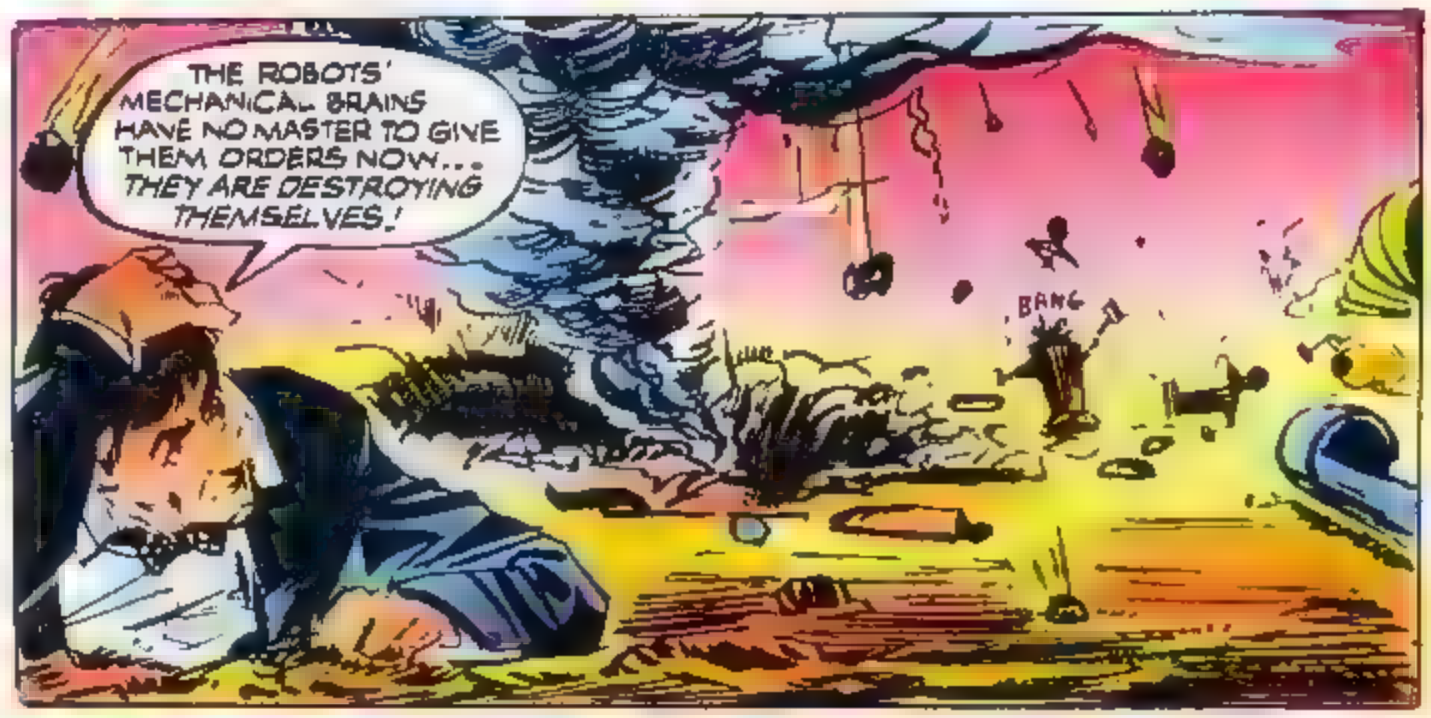


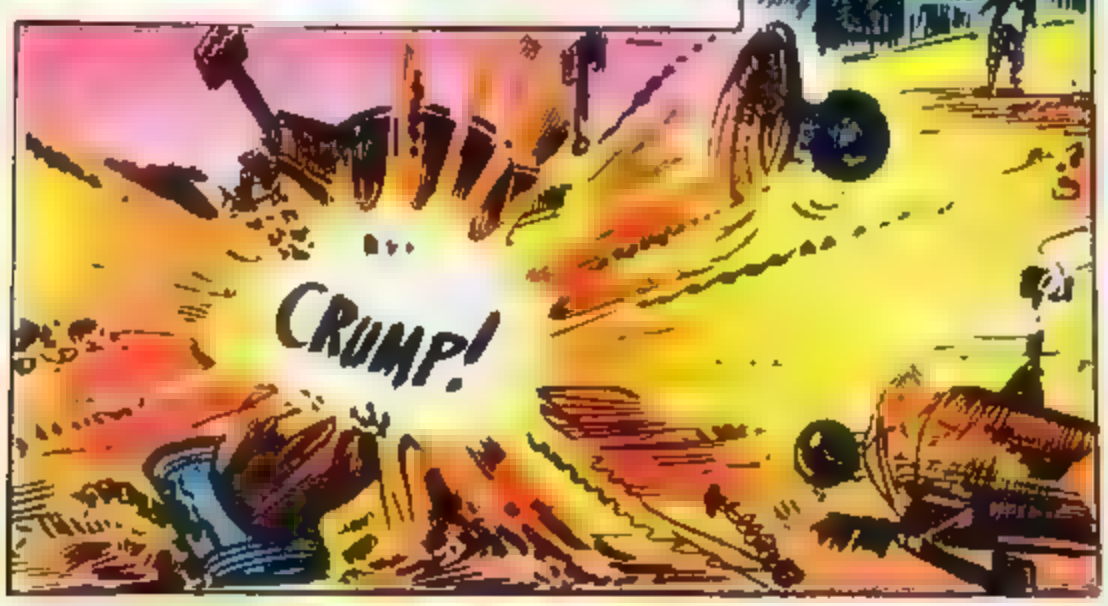


IF THERE'S ENOUGH POWER IN MY THROW THE GRENADE WILL DROP RIGHT DOWN ARBORGE'S LIFT SHAFT...

...INTO HIS UNDERGROUND FACTORY!

BOOM!
ARBORGE QUINCE AND HIS ROBOTS WON'T SURVIVE THAT LITTLE LOT!


THE ROBOTS' MECHANICAL BRAINS HAVE NO MASTER TO GIVE THEM ORDERS NOW... THEY ARE DESTROYING THEMSELVES!
BANG


...THAT'S THE LAST ONE! VERNO'S FORCES ARE CRUSHED AT LAST!
CRUMP!

DOCTOR! DOCTOR! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT US.. BUT INSTEAD YOU SAVED OUR LIVES!
YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD MORE FAITH IN ME, CHILD!

I'VE JOURNEYED THROUGH TIME AND SPACE WITH YOU TOO LONG TO LEAVE YOU TWO BEHIND NOW!

EARTH WILL NEVER KNOW IT, BUT WE THREE ALONE PREVENTED SPACE WAR THREE!

NEXT WEEK

Steve McGarrett fights a racket in

'JUST FOR KICKS'

a great complete story!

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AND all your favourite ACTION stories

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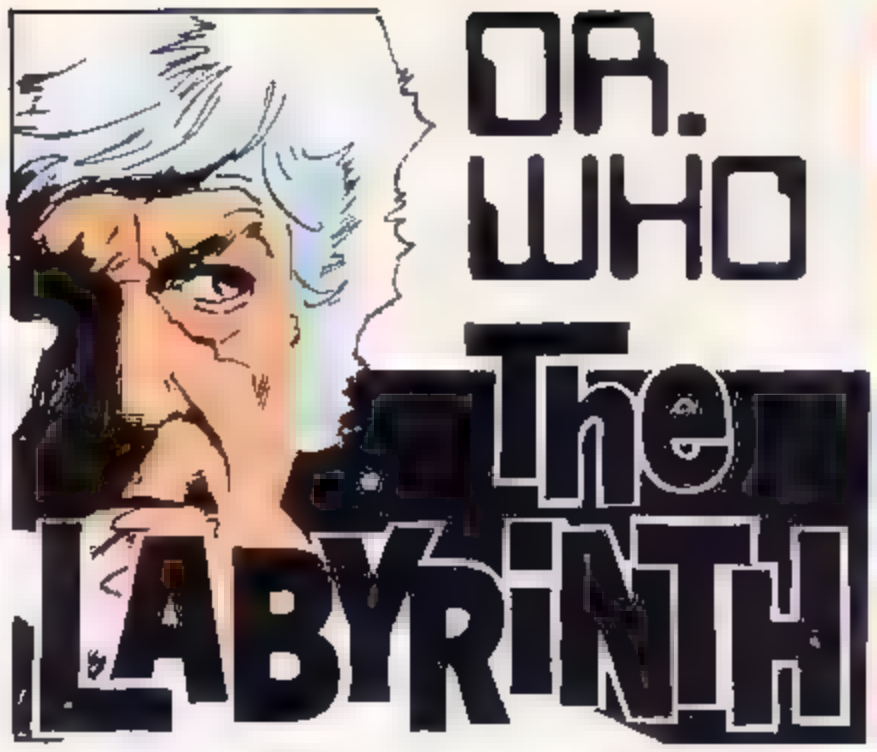
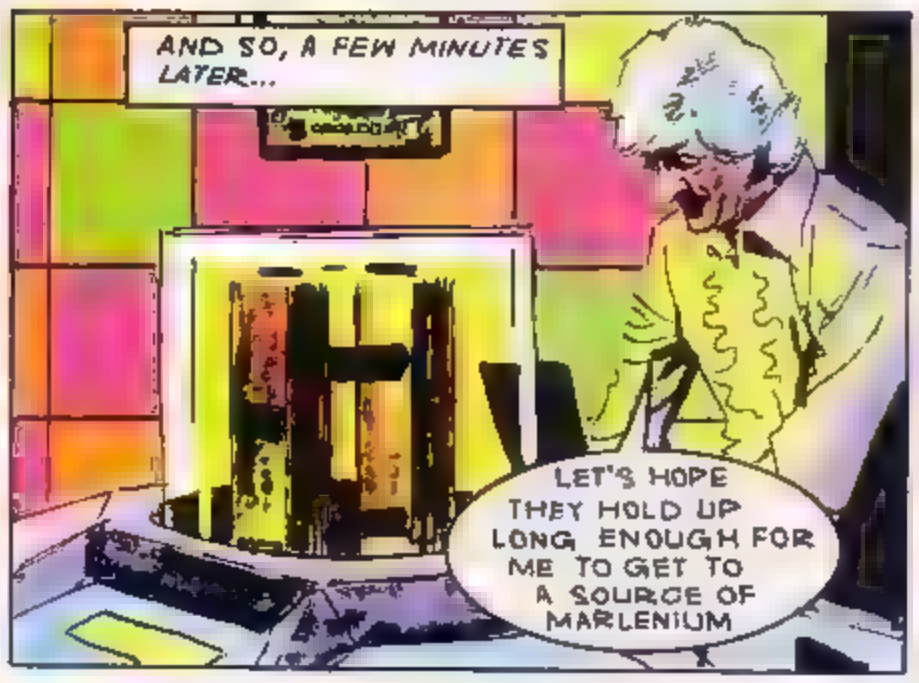
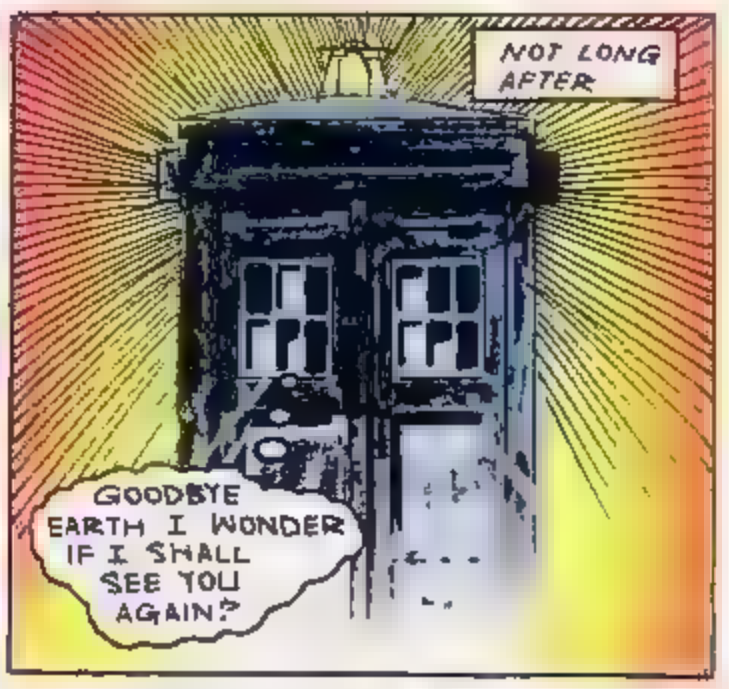
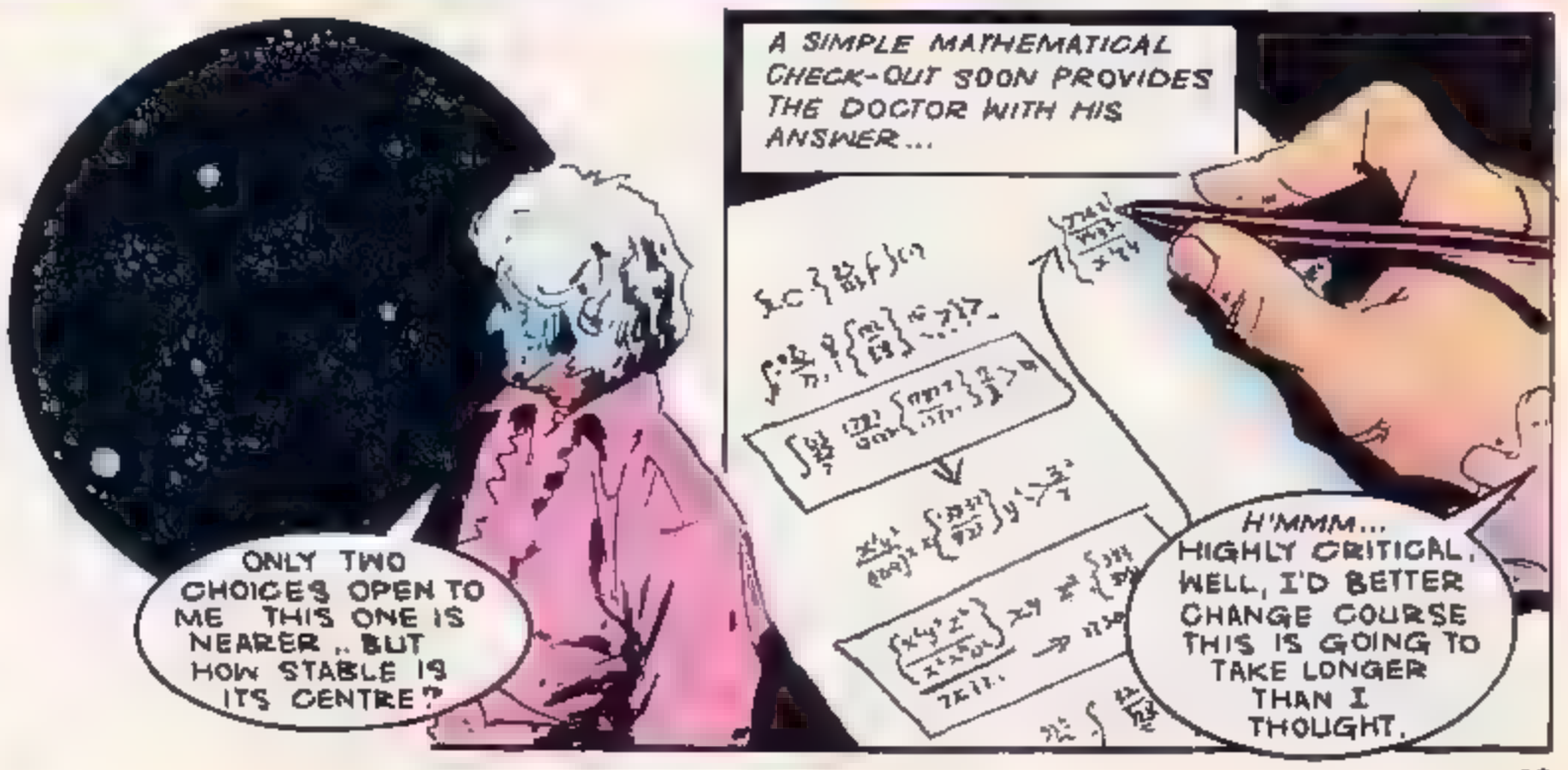
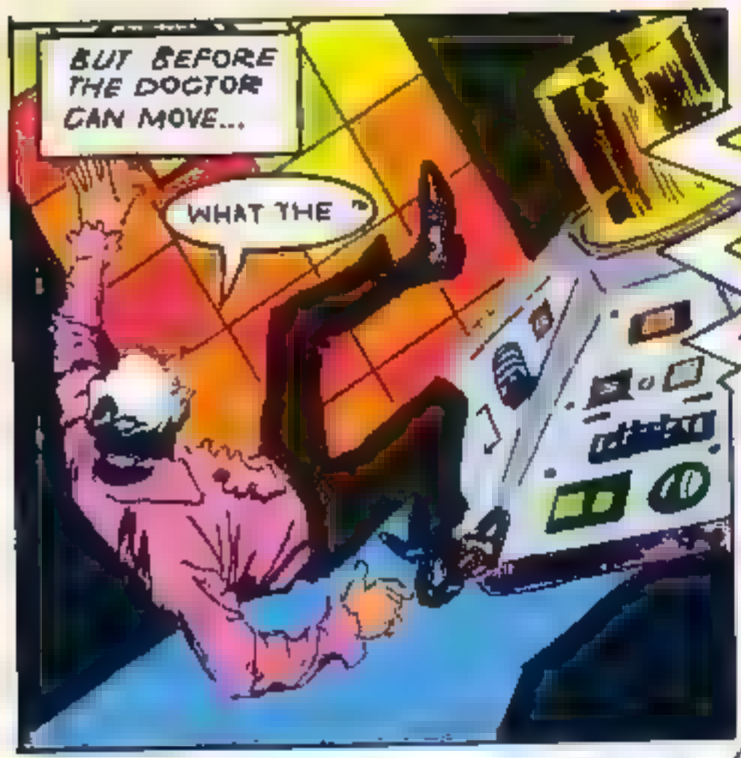
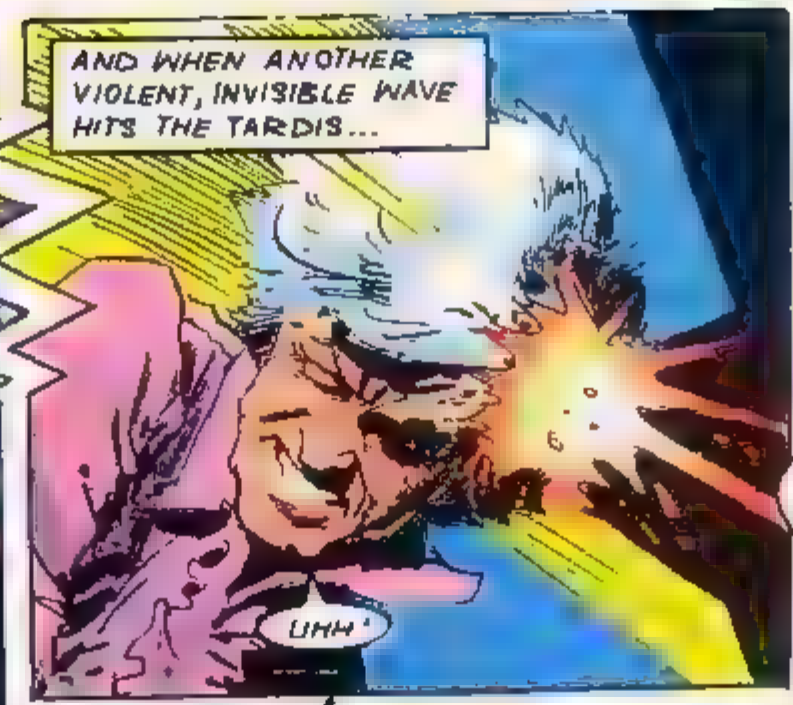


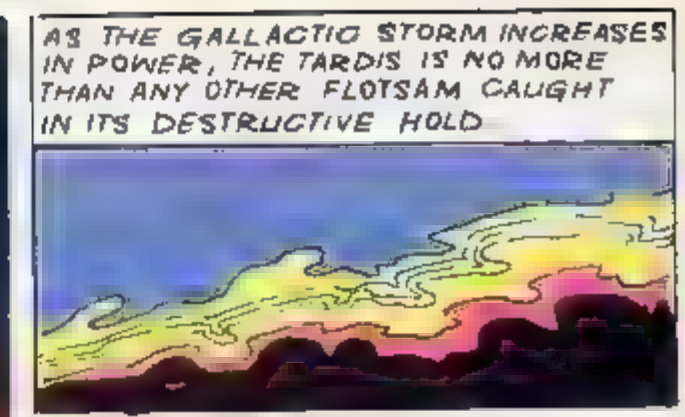






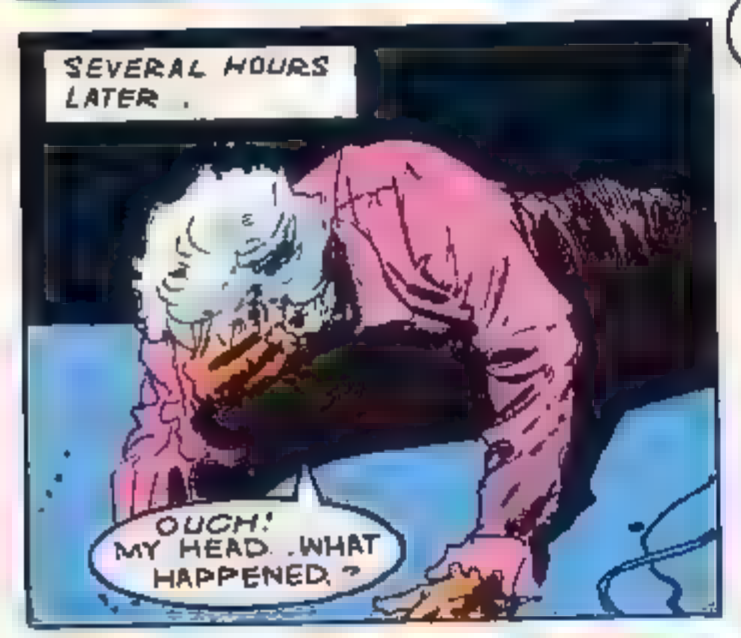

BUT BEFORE THE DOCTOR CAN MOVE...
WHAT THE

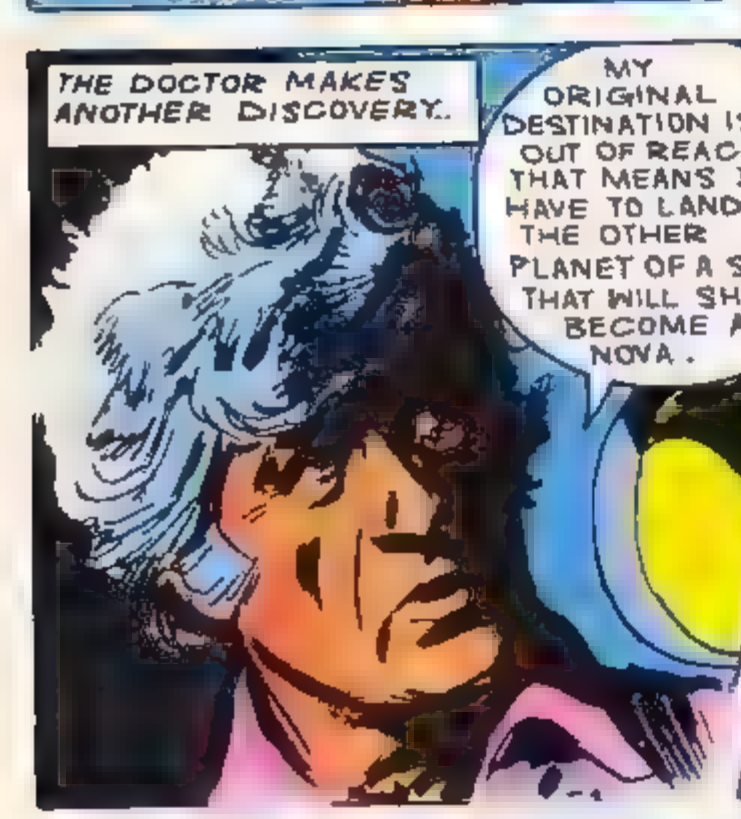

AND WHEN ANOTHER VIOLENT, INVISIBLE WAVE HITS THE TARDIS...
UHH!


AS THE GALLACTIC STORM INCREASES IN POWER, THE TARDIS IS NO MORE THAN ANY OTHER FLOTSAM CAUGHT IN ITS DESTRUCTIVE HOLD

MMMM .. MOST SUPERFICIAL, BUT THOSE MARLENIUM ELEMENTS HAVE TAKEN A BASHING. I'D BETTER CHECK MY POSITION

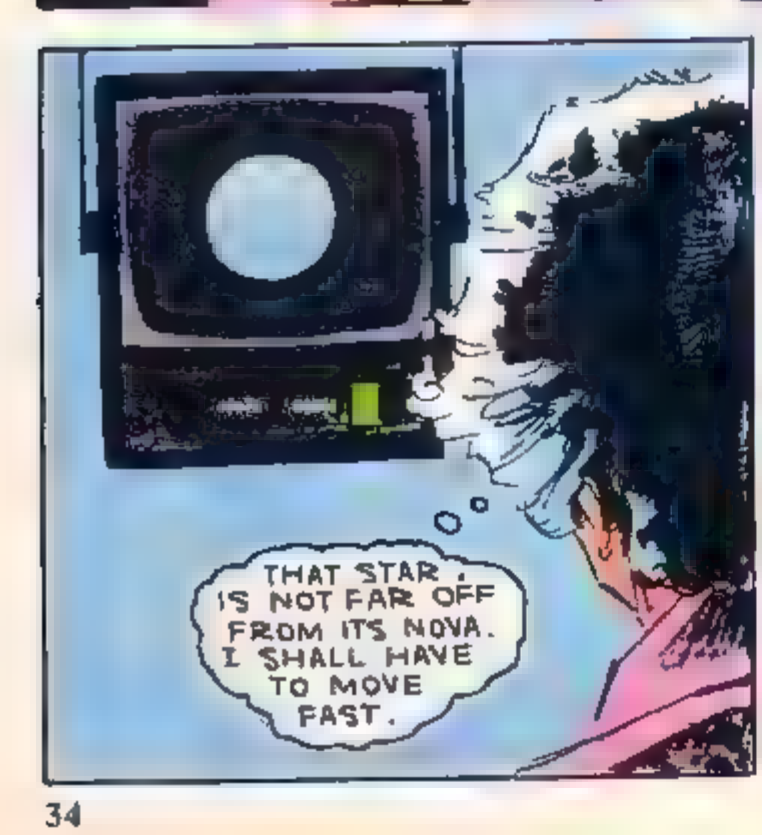
THAT WRETCHED GALLACTIC STORM I WONDER HOW BAD THE DAMAGE IS?


SEVERAL HOURS LATER .
OUCH! MY HEAD .WHAT HAPPENED ?


THE DOCTOR MAKES ANOTHER DISCOVERY..
MY ORIGINAL DESTINATION IS OUT OF REACH. THAT MEANS I HAVE TO LAND ON THE OTHER PLANET OF A STAR THAT WILL SHORTLY BECOME A NOVA .

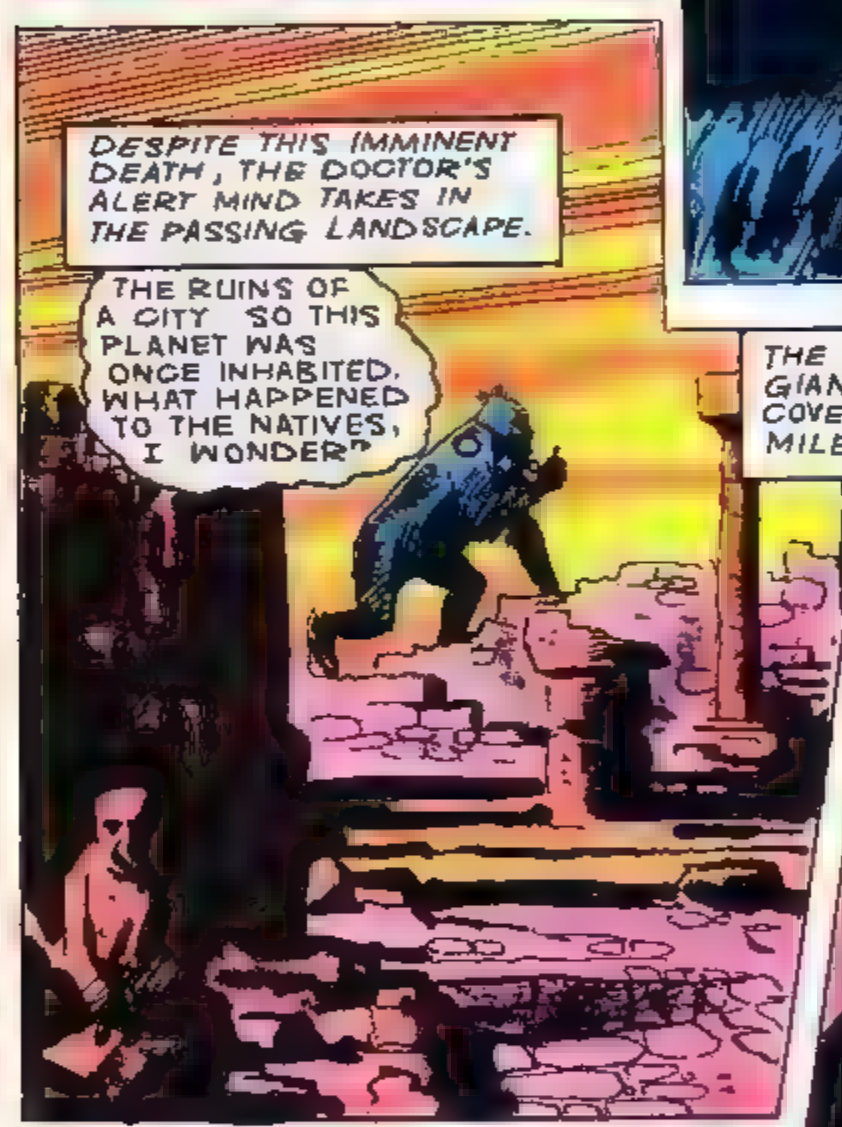
BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE? WITHOUT THE MARLENIUM, I'M FINISHED.

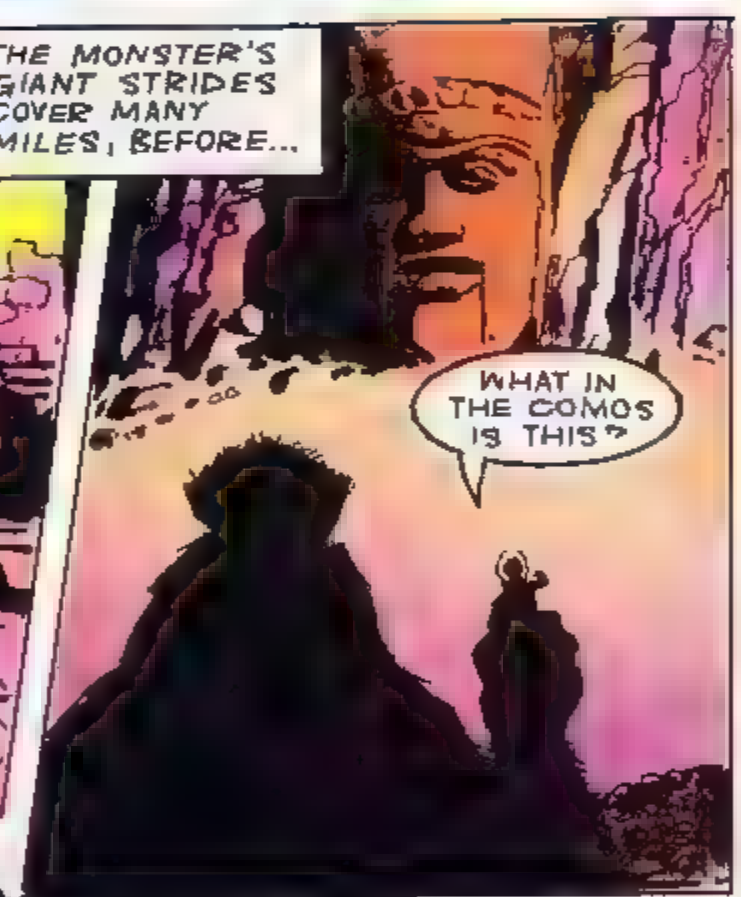
MANY WEEKS LATER, THE TARDIS NEARS ITS DESTINATION THE OUTER PLANET OF A DYING STAR ..

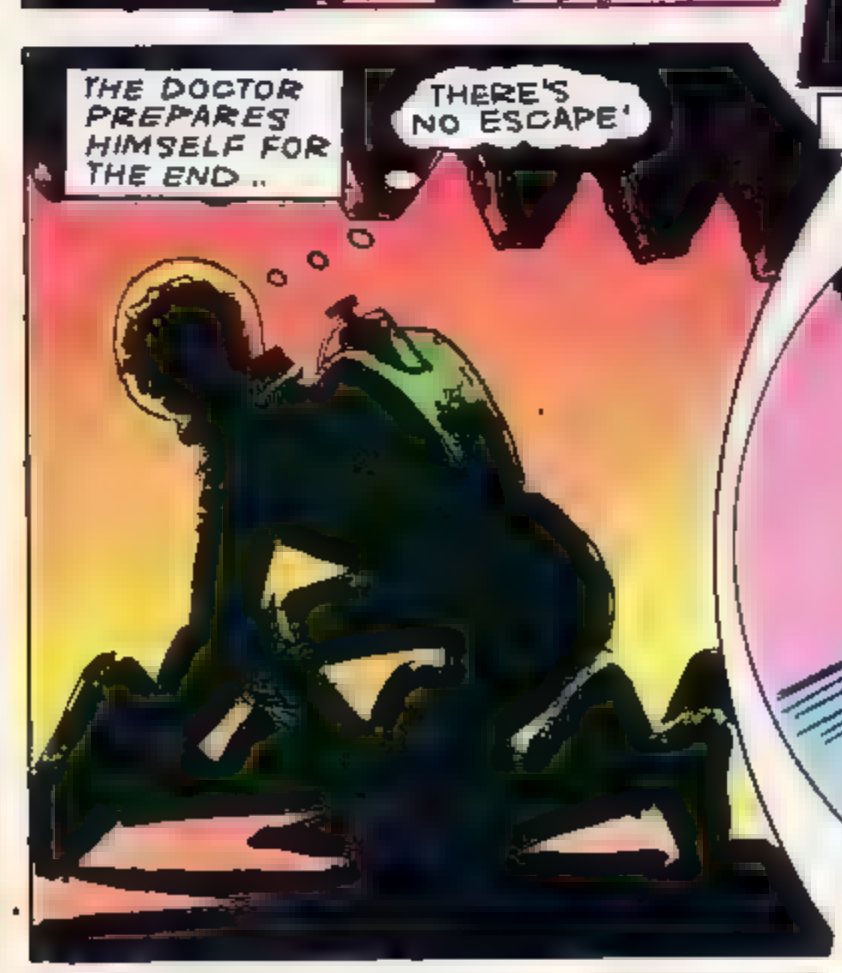

THAT STAR . IS NOT FAR OFF FROM ITS NOVA. I SHALL HAVE TO MOVE FAST.

AND SOON .
I MUST LOCATE THE MARLENIUM AND GET AWAY FROM HERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

LIKE THE HUMAN CONCEPTION OF HELL STILL, WHEN ITS SUN EXPLODES, IT WILL BE SO MUCH COSMIC DUST.
USING A SMALL MINERAL DETECTOR, THE DOCTOR PROBES A PROMISING OUTCROP OF ROCKS FOR THE PRECIOUS MARLENIUM...
THIS LOOKS PROMISING.
SUDDENLY..
WHAT'S THAT ?
GOOD GRIEF! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
DESPERATELY, THE DOCTOR SCRAMBLES FOR SHELTER...
THERE'S A HOLE UP AHEAD CAN I MAKE IT ?
HAMPERED BY HIS CUMBERSOME SUIT, THE TIME-TRAVELLER FEELS THE GROUND TREMBLE BENEATH HIS FEET AS THE COLOSSUS GAINS ON HIM..
WITH ONLY INCHES TO SPARE...
PHEW ! MADE IT !
BUT THE DOCTOR'S RELIEF IS SHORT-LIVED...







Dr Who continues on page 21

Dr Who
part two

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MOVING STAIRCASE.

IT SEEMS TO BE A DEAD END.

SUDDENLY A STRANGE LIGHT GLIMMERS THROUGH A WALL, AND...

WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU WALK ON THE FORBIDDEN SURFACE?

THEY CALL ME DOCTOR. I COME FROM SPACE TO FIND THE MINERAL MARLENIUM.

TO THE LIGHT HUM OF HIDDEN MACHINERY...

YOUR TRIAL BEGINS. REMOVE YOUR PROTECTIVE CLOTHES AND ENTER THE LABYRINTH.

TRIAL? LABYRINTH?

WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS PLACE? WHO ARE YOU?

BUT THE ONLY REPLY THE DOCTOR GETS ARE ECHOES FROM THE WALLS..

WHICH WAY? ONE'S AS GOOD AS THE OTHER I SUPPOSE.

ANOTHER DEAD END, OR IS IT?

WHAT IN HEAVENS NOW!

A CONTEST TO THE DEATH WITH MONTAX. THE WINNER WILL TAKE VELA AS HIS PRIZE.

AM I TO FIGHT EMPTY-HANDED?

ALMOST IN ANSWER...

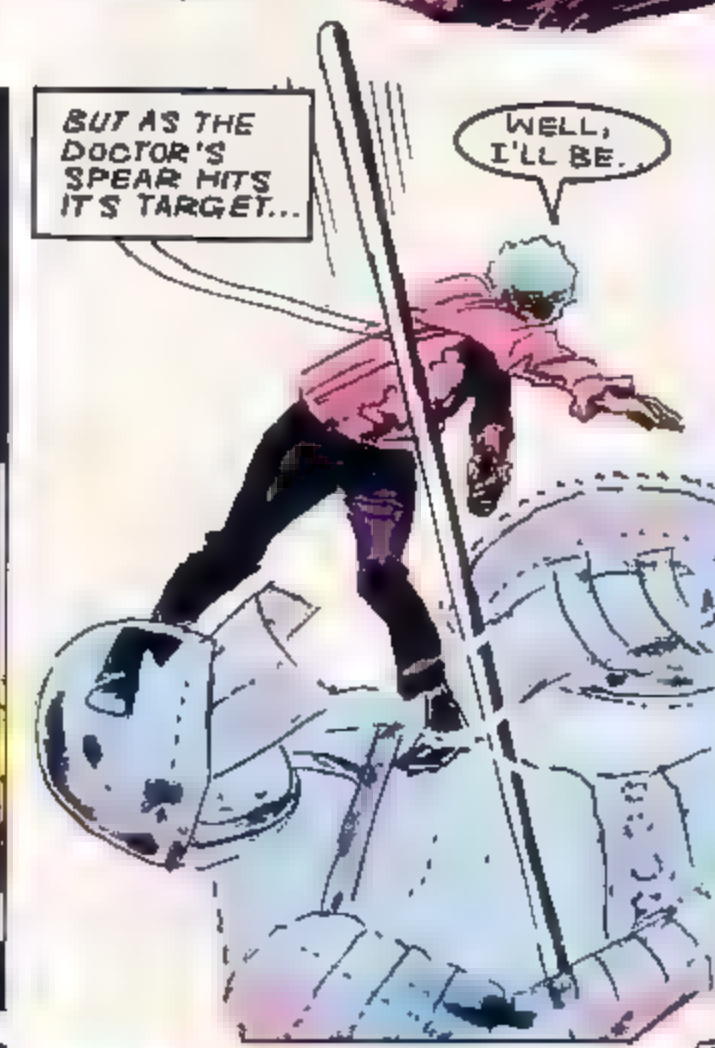
I THINK THAT POOR CREATURE WOULD BE BETTER IN MY HANDS, THAN THAT UGLY BRUTE'S.

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

WHEN, THE DOCTOR STUMBLES...
OOF!

SUMMONING EVERY LAST OUNCE OF WILL-POWER, THE DOCTOR DRIVES HIS BODY TO OBEY...
NOW IT'S MY TURN!

DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY I'LL EVER FINISH THIS FIGHTING MACHINE.

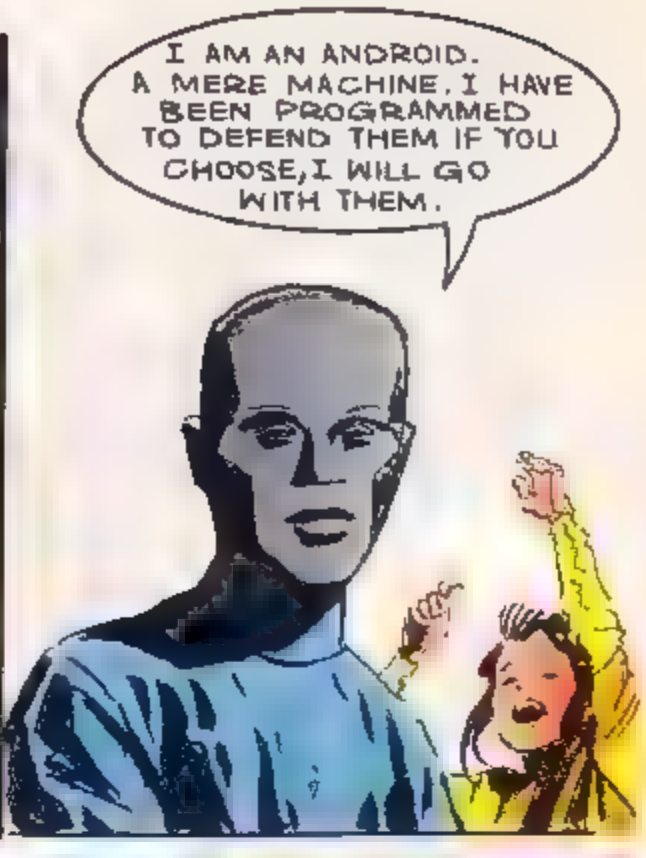

BUT AS THE DOCTOR'S SPEAR HITS IT'S TARGET...
WELL, I'LL BE..

SO YOU TWO WERE A MIRAGE.
YOU HAVE OVERCOME YOUR FIRST TRIAL- CONTINUE!

MORE CORRIDORS LEAD TO NEW DANGERS.
UNGH! THE HEAT, IT'S UNBEARABLE...

..BUT MUSTN'T LOSE MY BALANCE- DAREN'T LOOK DOWN...

THE DOCTOR PASSE MANY MORE DANGERS, UNTIL FINALLY...
YOU HAVE PASSED THE TRIAL. TAKE THE MARLENIUM- YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE. BUT BEFORE YOU GO, WE WOULD MAKE ONE REQUEST.

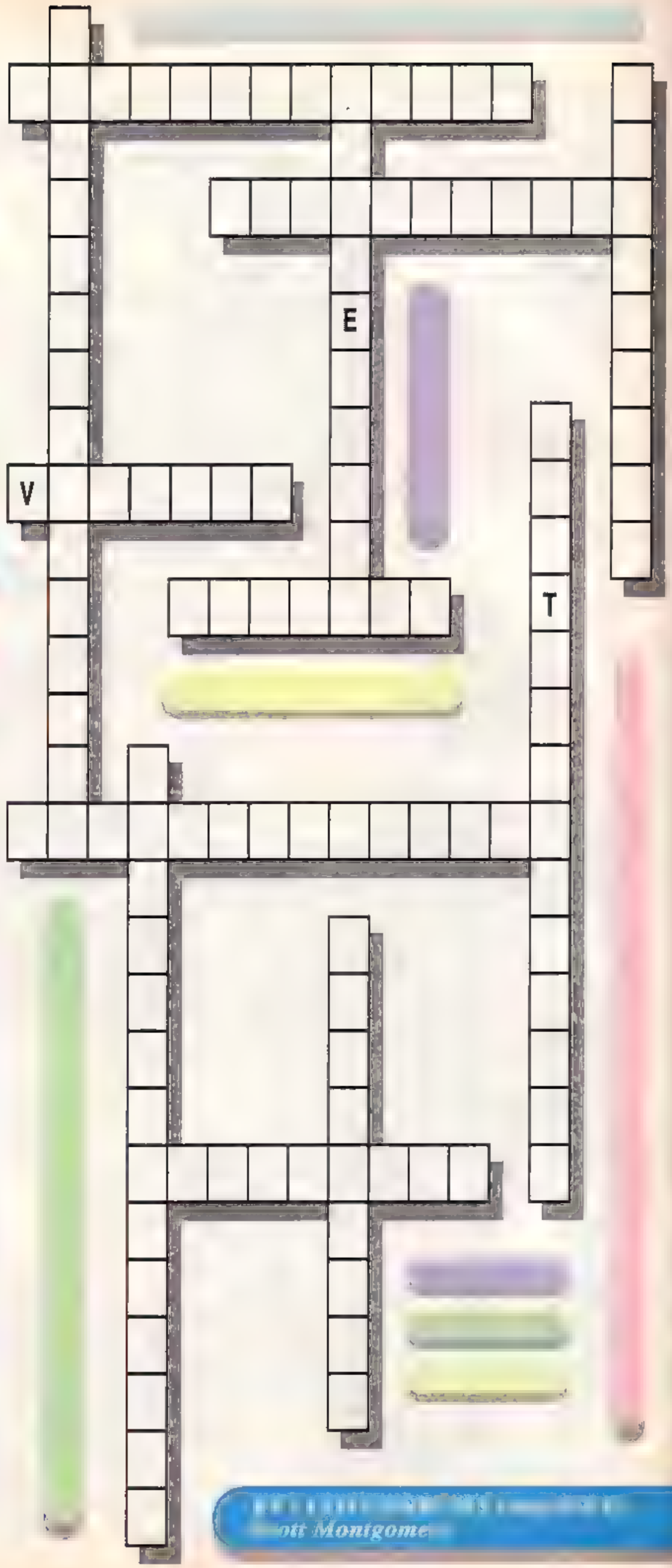


● ART: GERRY HAYLOCK

ROSS CONNINDRUMS

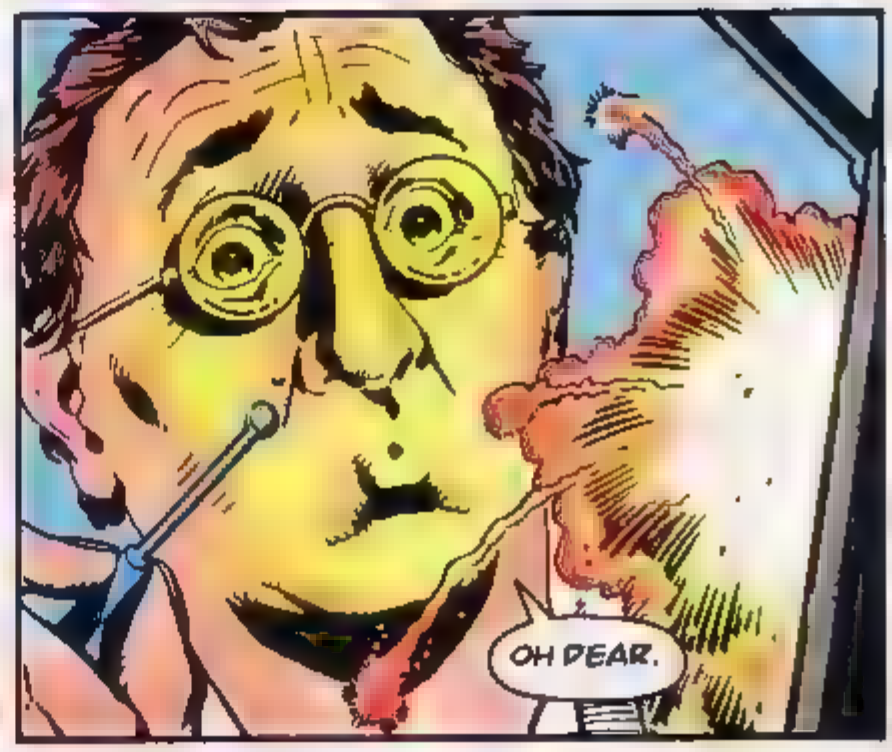
Place the following comic strip titles into their correct positions in the grid. A few letters have been filled in to help you. Please note: There are no diagonals or backwards spellings.

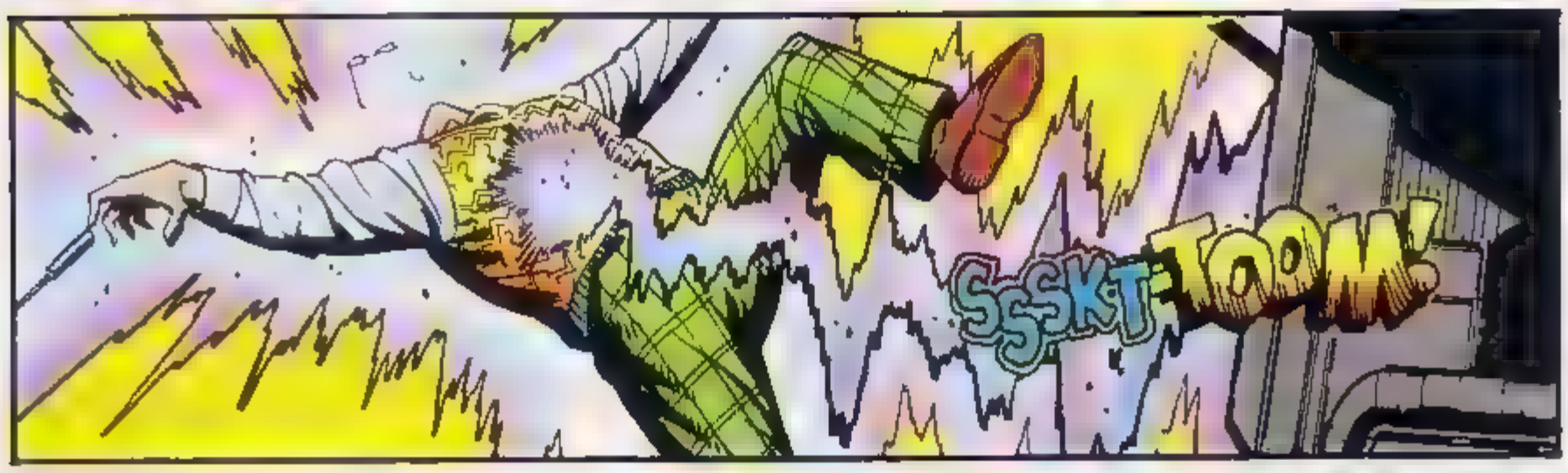
- SHARK BAIT
- SUB ZERO
- THE [illegible]
- THE TIDES OF TIME
- [illegible]
- EVENING'S EMPIRE
- [illegible]
- DEATH FLOWER
- DREAMERS OF DEATH
- STAR BEAST
- [illegible]
- PROFITS OF DOOM

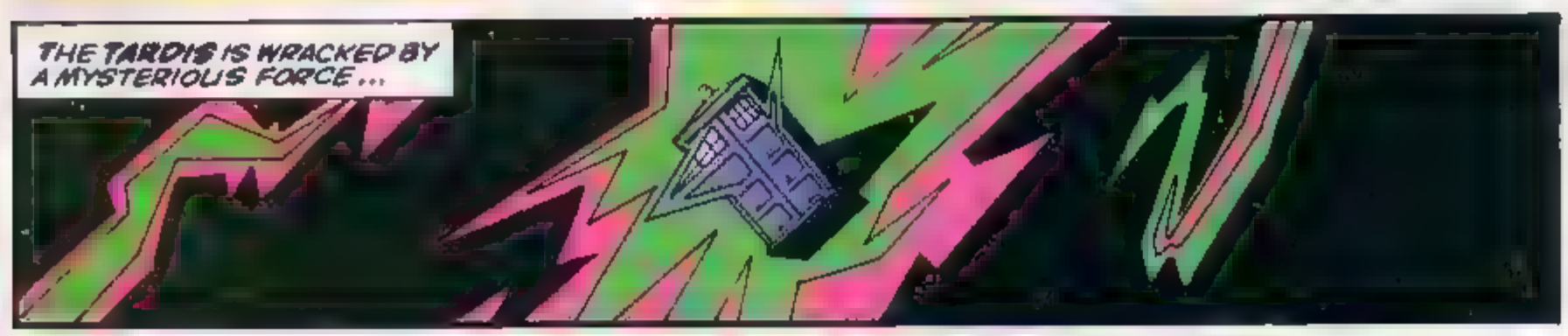


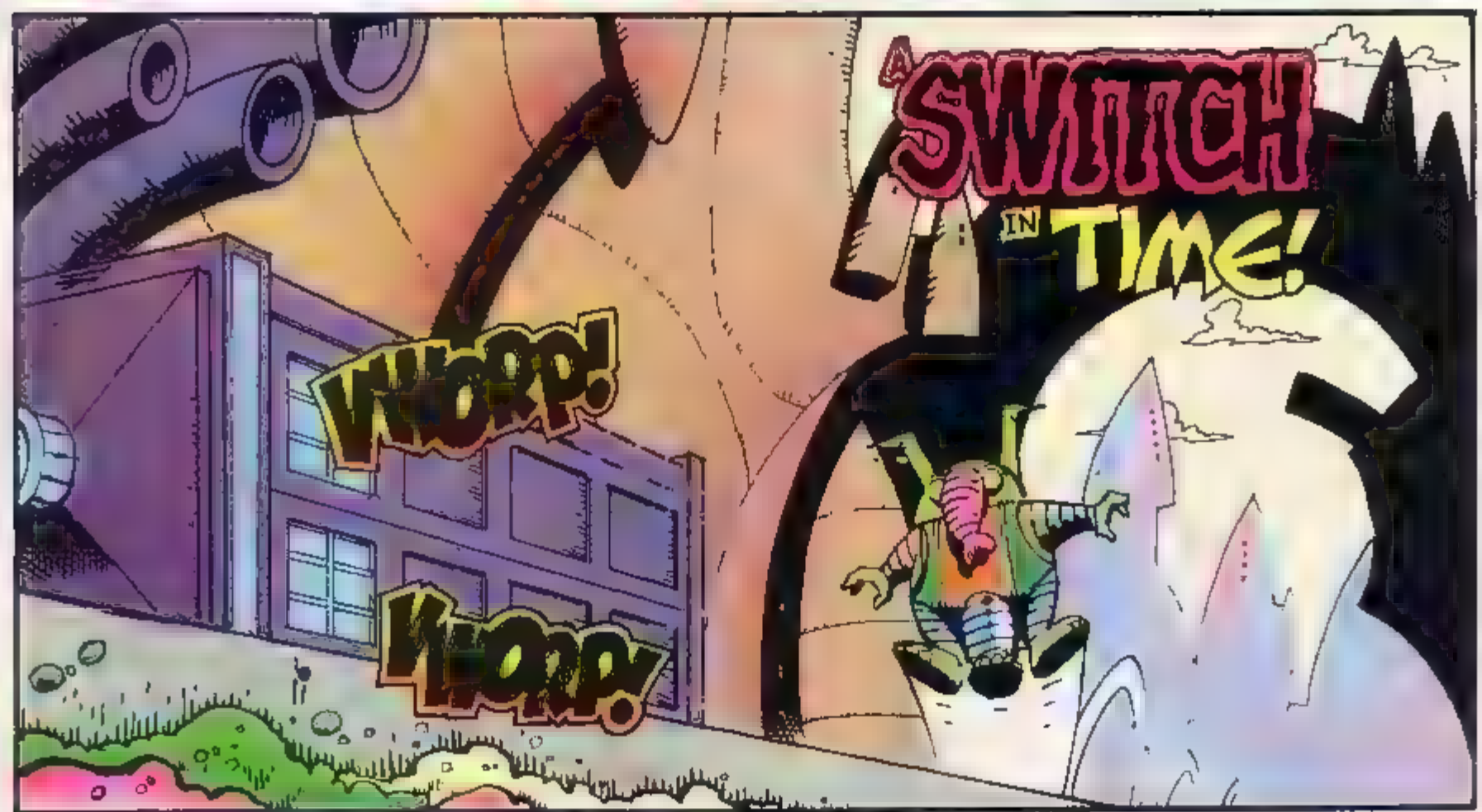
[illegible] Montgome

Doctor Who





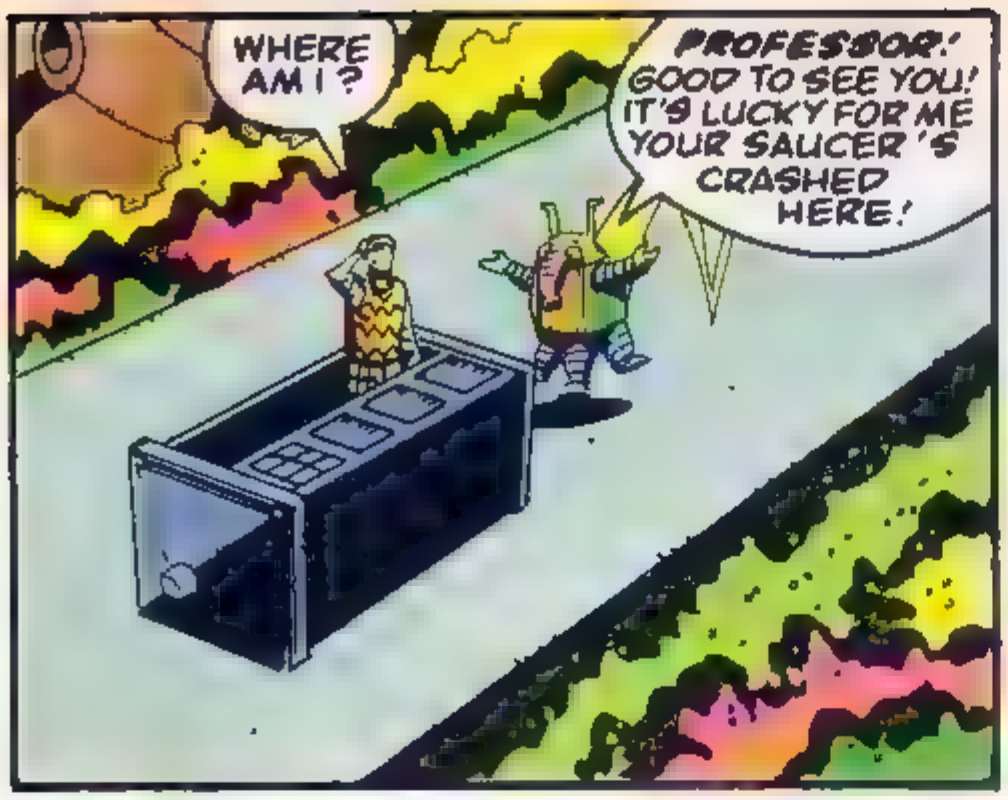


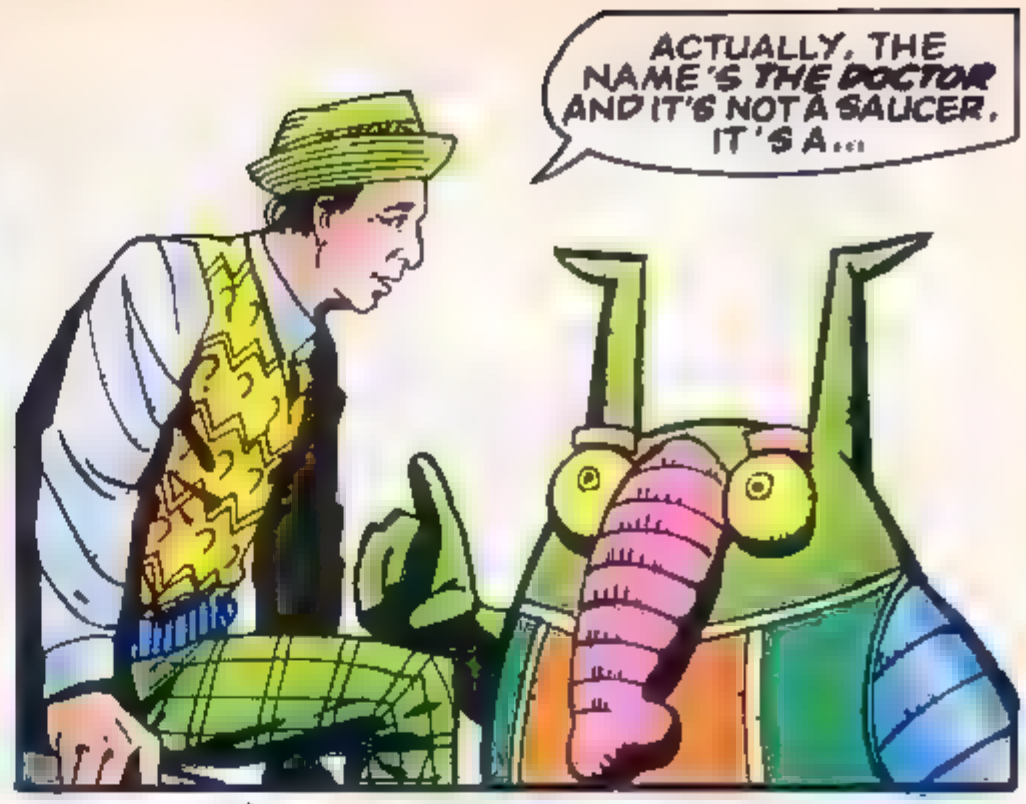


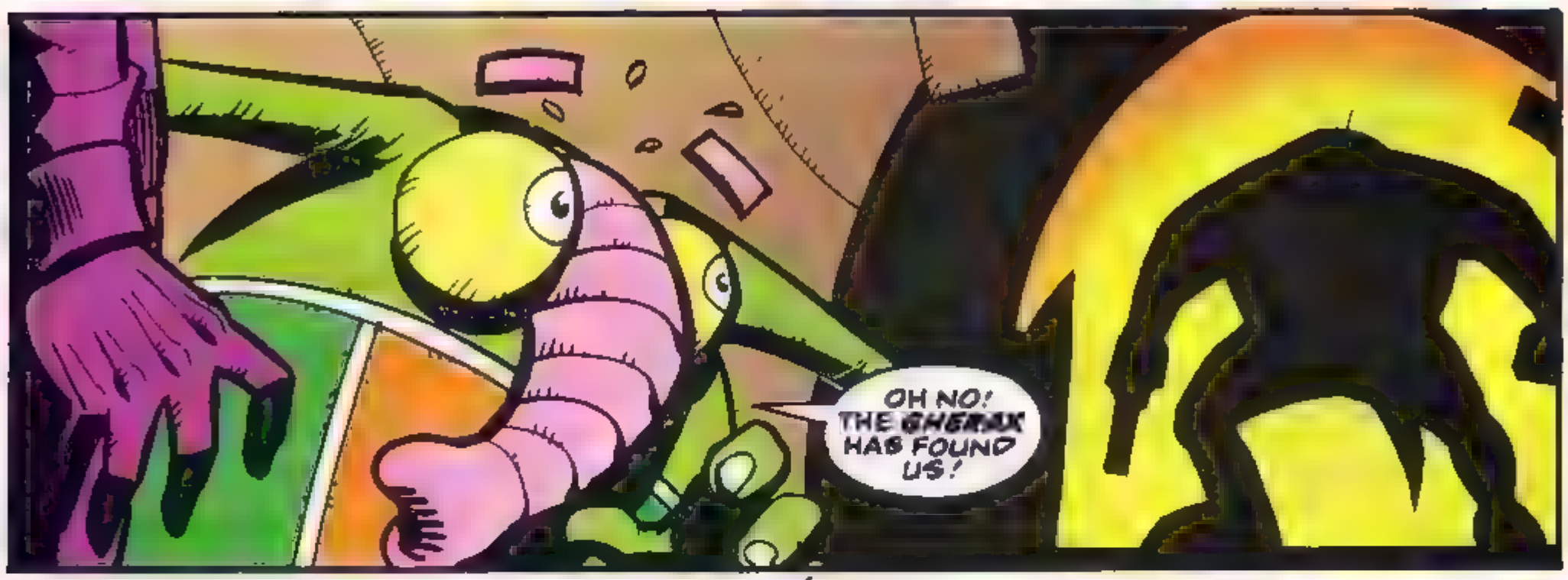
Script
JOHN FREEMAN

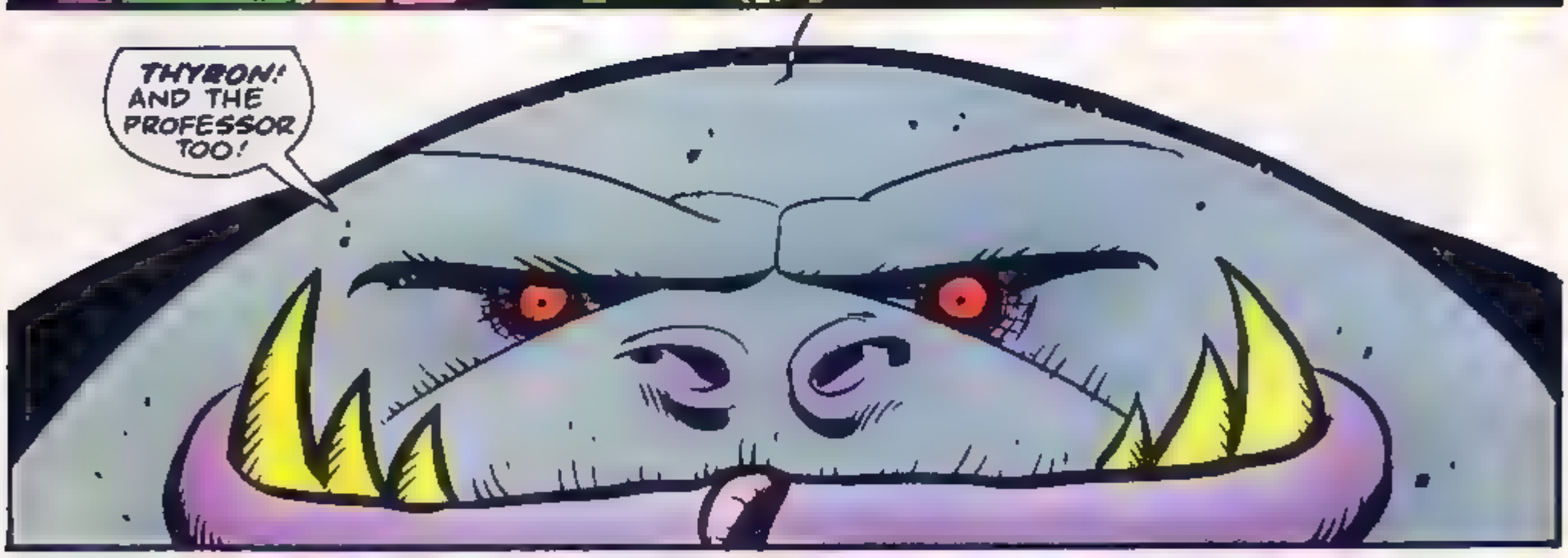
Art
GEOFF SENIOR

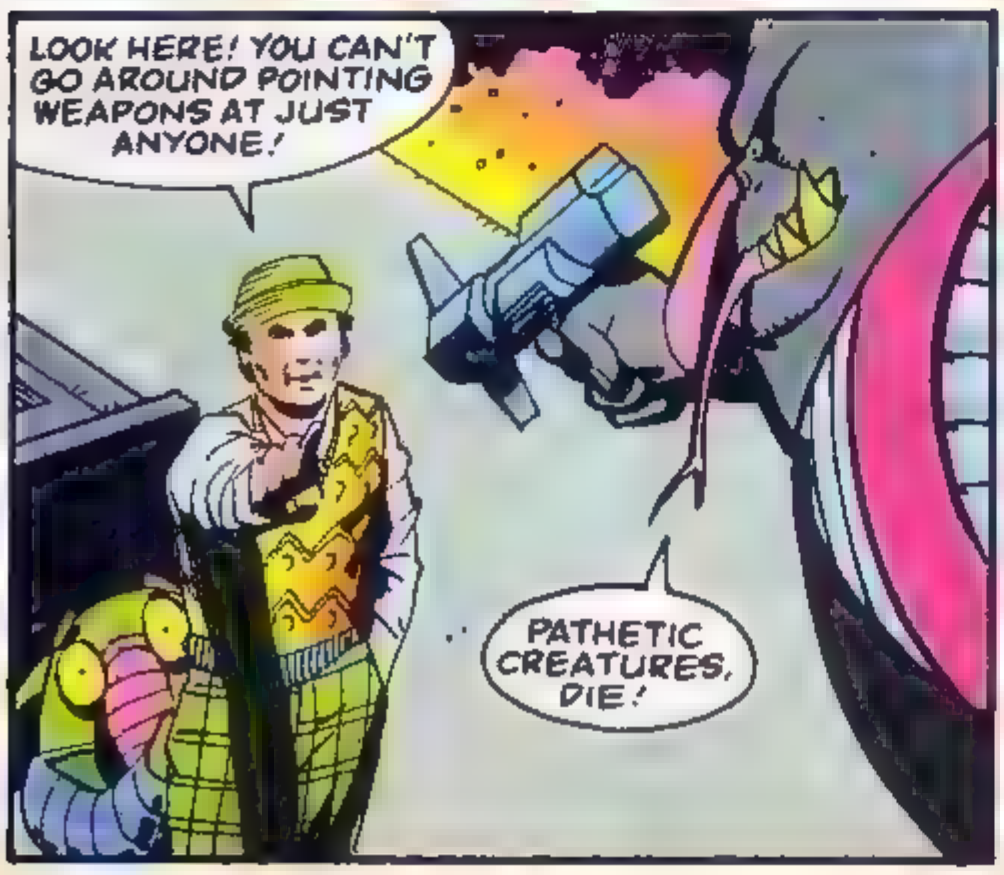
Letters
HELEN STONE

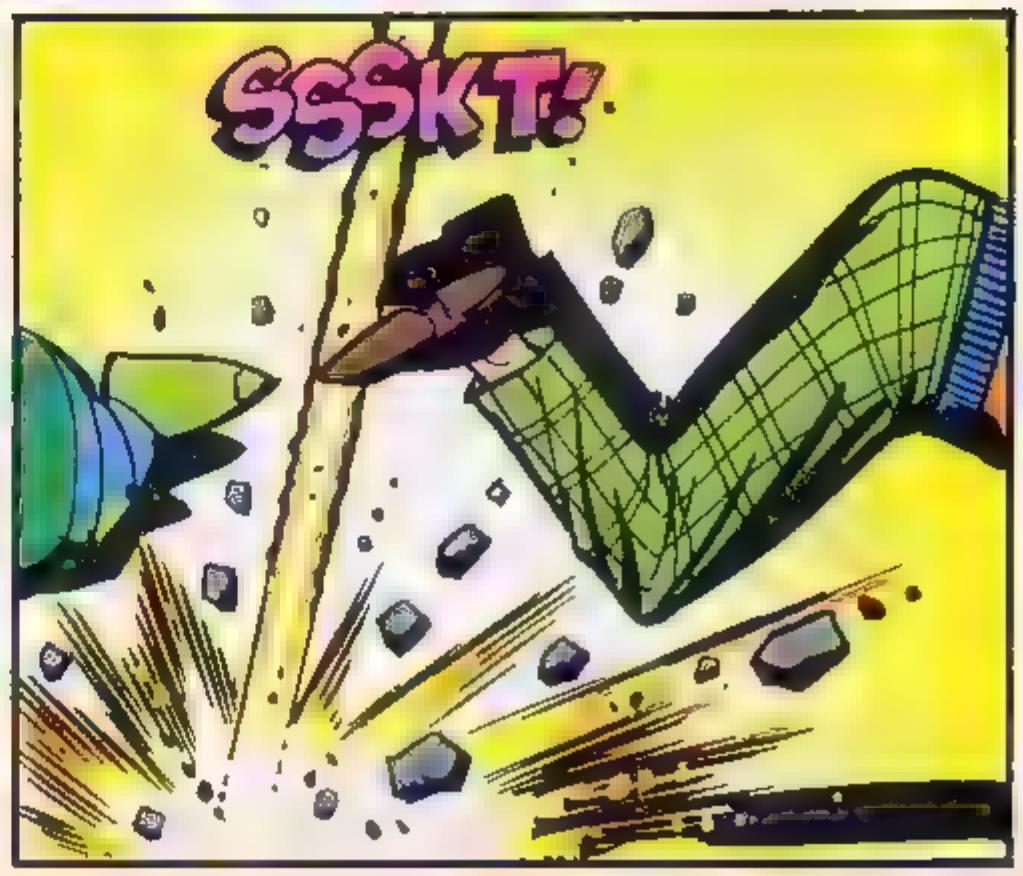

WHERE AM I?
PROFESSOR! GOOD TO SEE YOU! IT'S LUCKY FOR ME YOUR SAUCER'S CRASHED HERE!

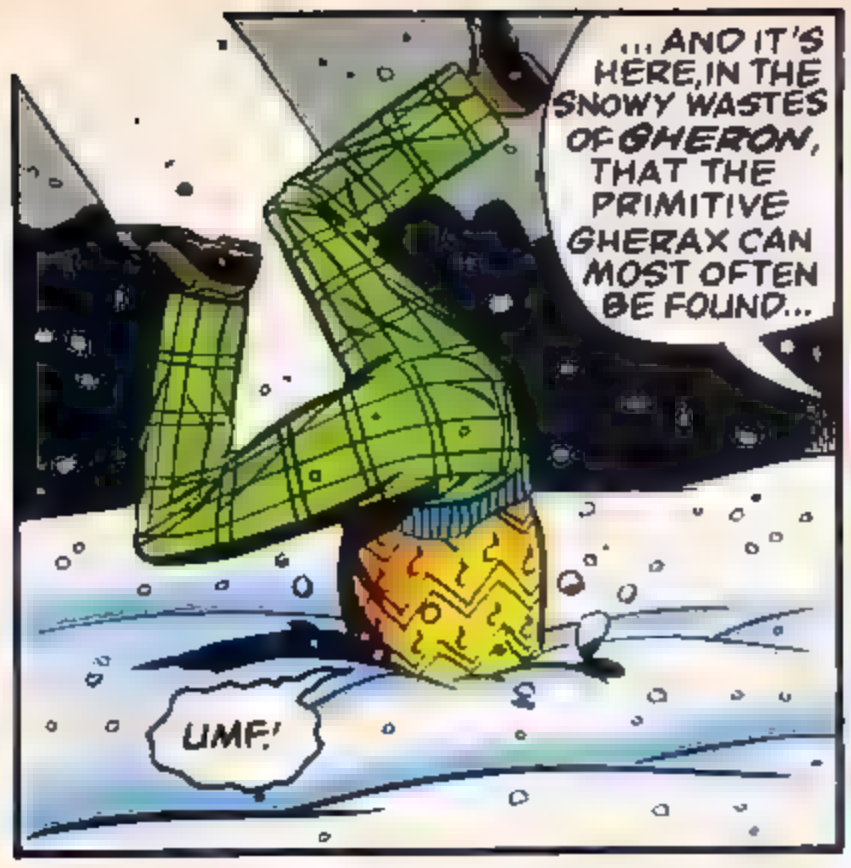

ACTUALLY, THE NAME'S THE DOCTOR AND IT'S NOT A SAUCER. IT'S A...

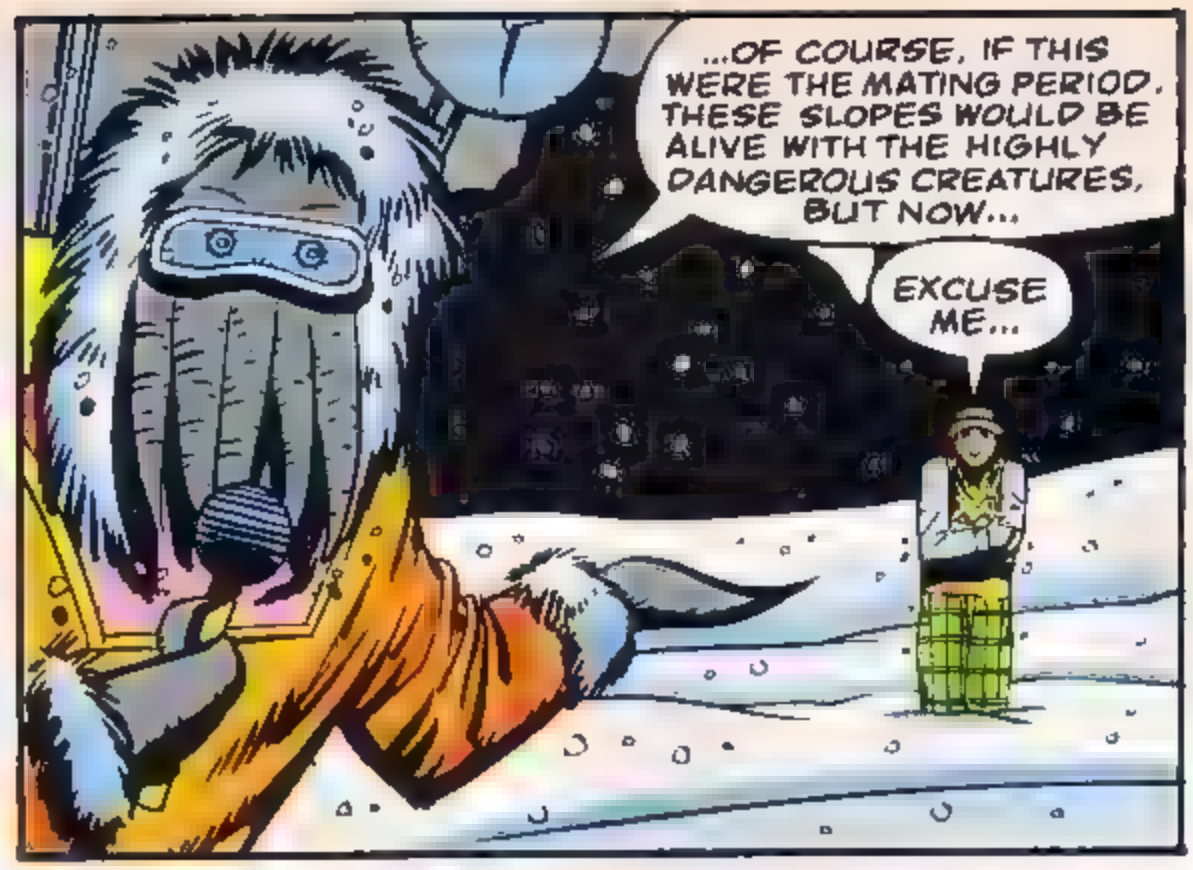

OH NO! THE GHERAX HAS FOUND US!


THYRON! AND THE PROFESSOR TOO!


LOOK HERE! YOU CAN'T GO AROUND POINTING WEAPONS AT JUST ANYONE!
PATHETIC CREATURES, DIE!

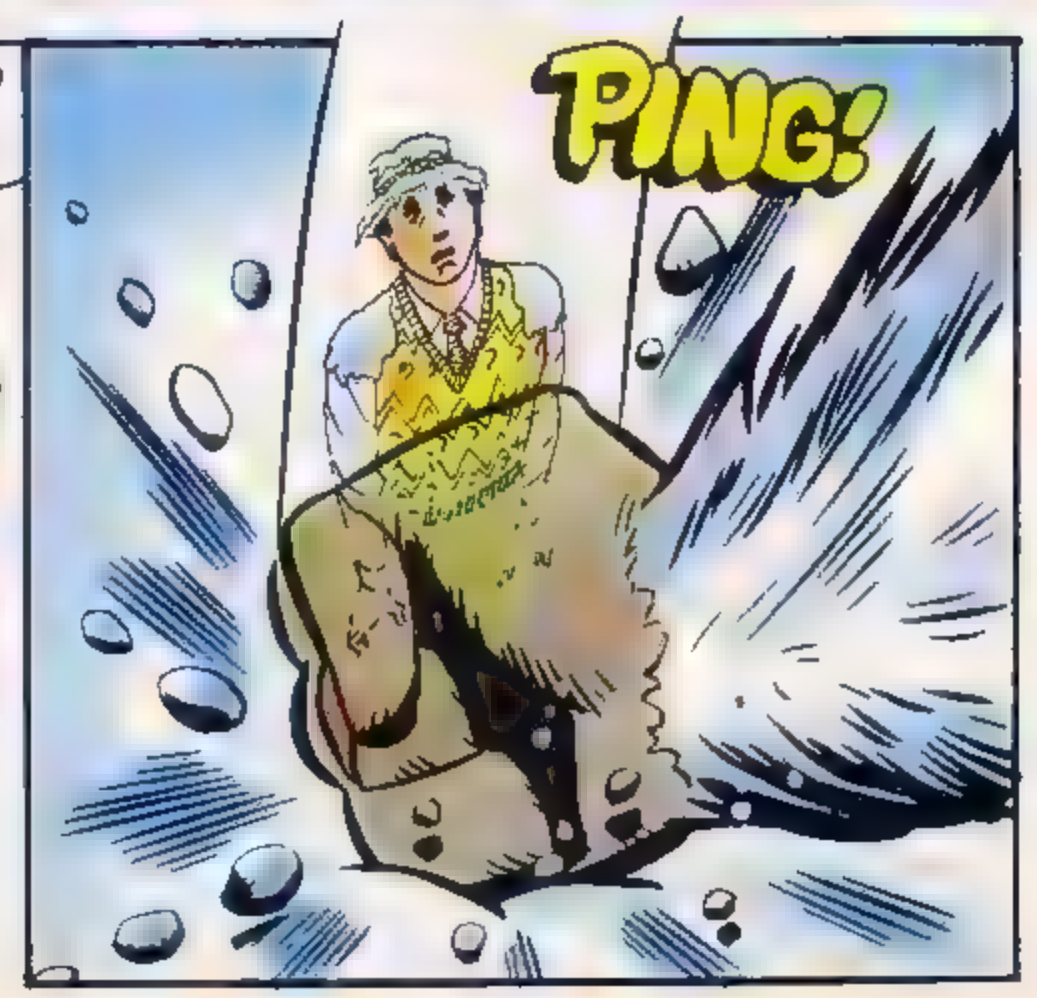

SSSKT!


...AND IT'S HERE, IN THE SNOWY WASTES OF GHERON, THAT THE PRIMITIVE GHERAX CAN MOST OFTEN BE FOUND...
UMF!

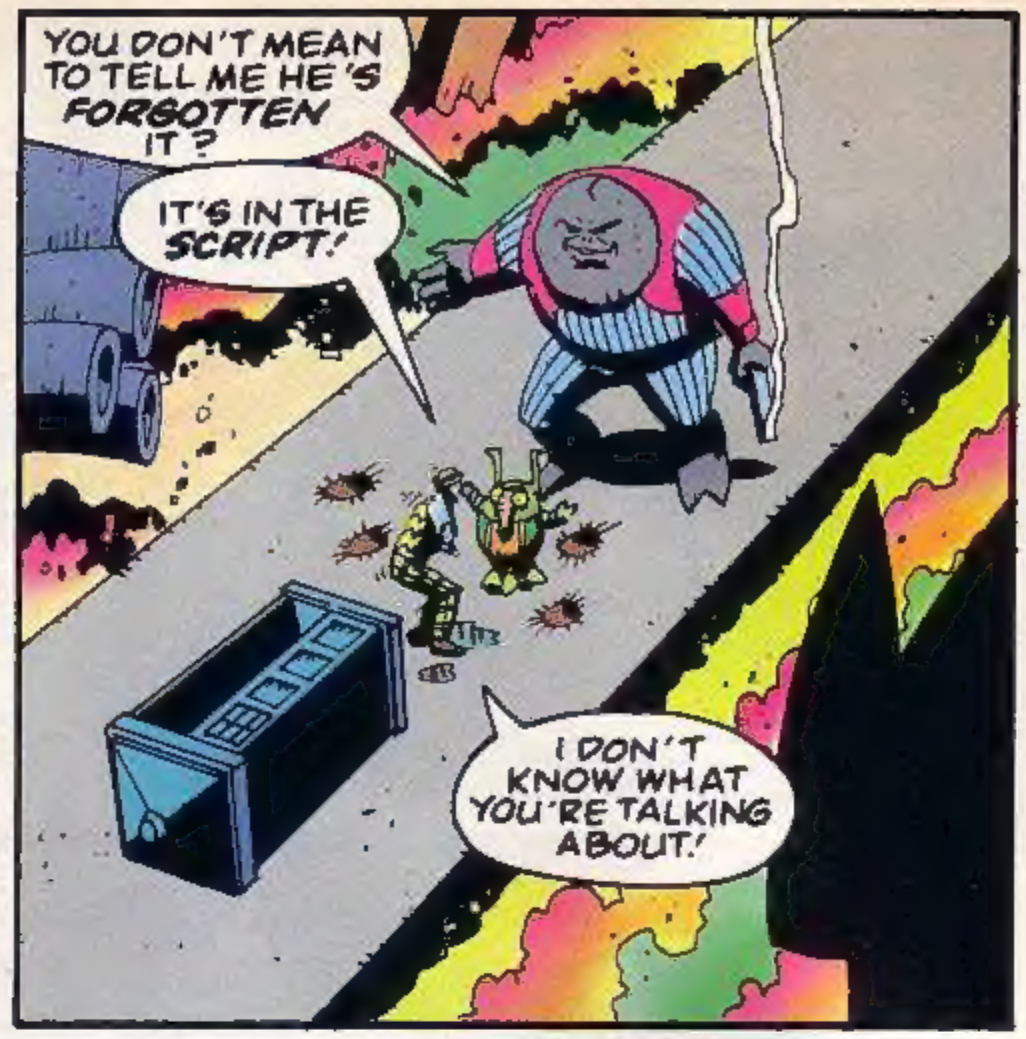

...OF COURSE, IF THIS WERE THE MATING PERIOD, THESE SLOPES WOULD BE ALIVE WITH THE HIGHLY DANGEROUS CREATURES, BUT NOW...
EXCUSE ME...

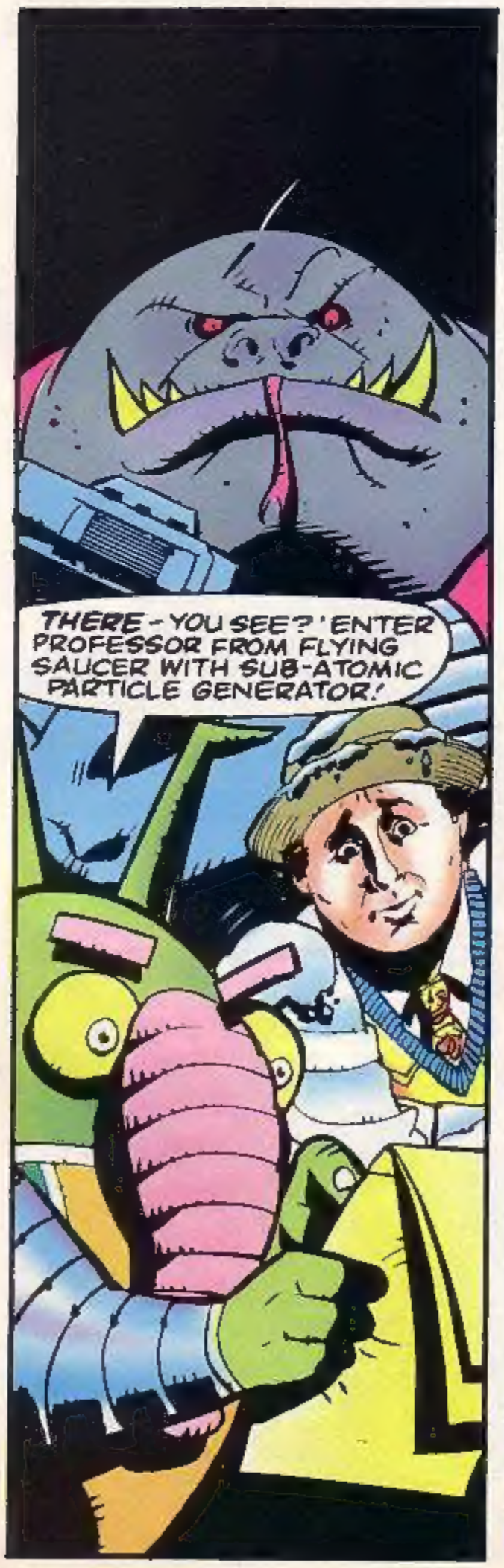
RAAAAAK!
AAAK!
AWK!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS. I'M A NATURALIST!
RAAAAK


PING!

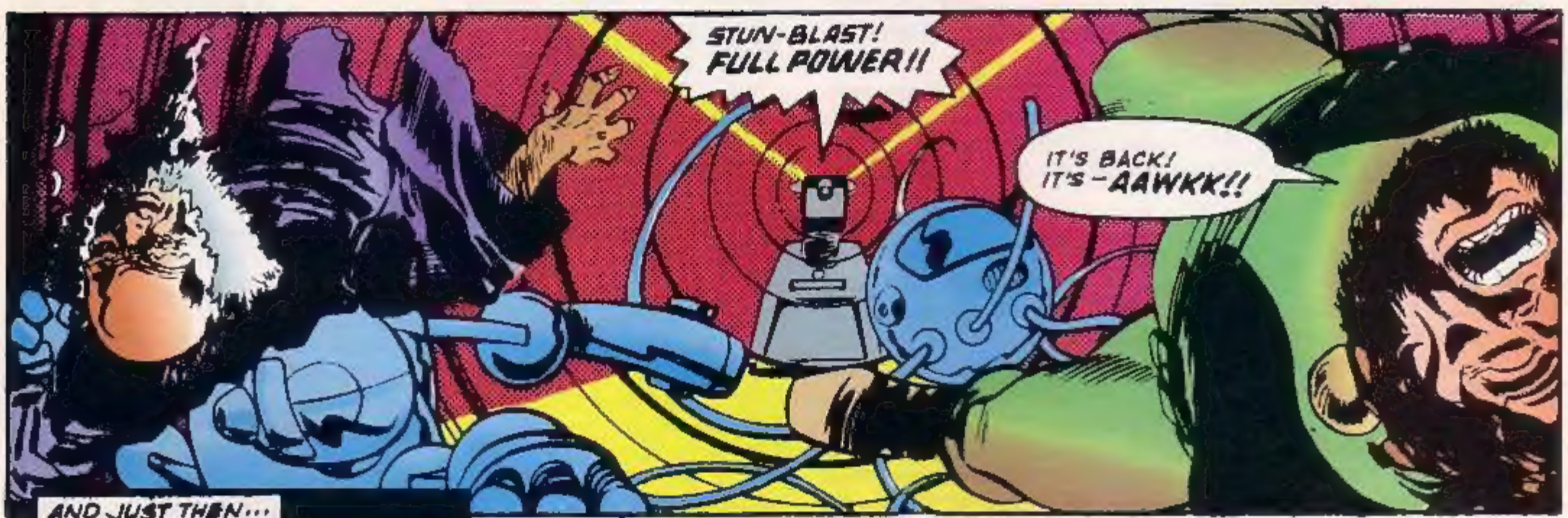
PROFESSOR, YOU'RE BACK! BUT YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT THE SUB-ATOMIC PARTICLE ACCELERATOR!


YOU DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME HE'S FORGOTTEN IT?
IT'S IN THE SCRIPT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!


THERE - YOU SEE? ENTER PROFESSOR FROM FLYING SAUCER WITH SUB-ATOMIC PARTICLE GENERATOR!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN IF WE BROUGHT A HUMAN IN.
MY FAULT? WHY YOU STUCK UP LITTLE...
WHACK!
OWB! THAD IDN'T IN DE SCIB EDER!

SENSORS INDICATE OPEN SPACE BEHIND WALL... ANALYSIS: VENTILATION DUCT...
BURN-THROUGH TIME, FIFTY EIGHT POINT TWO SECONDS!
AND WITHIN...
BE READY, YOU TIN IDIOTS! THE TIME-LORD'LL BE HERE ANY MOMENT, LOOKING FOR K-9...
AND BEFORE HE CAN MOVE, WE'LL BLAST HIM INTO SOMETHING UNRECOGNISABLE!!
KER-ASHHH!


STUN-BLAST! FULL POWER!!
IT'S BACK! IT'S -AAWKK!!

AND JUST THEN...
HELLO, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
MASTER?
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO, K-9?
THEY WERE GOING TO KILL YOU, MASTER!
REALLY? AND HOWEVER DID YOU FIND THAT OUT, K-9?
THERE WAS NO AIR IN THE TRANSPORTATION CYLINDER WHEN I ARRIVED, MASTER! IF YOU HAD ARRIVED INSTEAD OF ME... SUFFOCATION!
GOOD HEAVENS! THAT'S POSITIVELY WICKED ISN'T IT, K-9? I THINK WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
YES, MASTER! DALGOF WILL NOT BE PLEASED TO KNOW HE HAS BEEN DEFEATED BY A ROBOT!
LET ALONE A ROBOT-DOG!

WORD!

John Ainsworth continues his examination of the *Doctor Who* comic strips starring the Third Doctor. In this issue, an old foe makes his first appearance and an old friend comes back.

DEADLY CHOICE

TV Action
Issues 101 - 103
(20.1.73 - 3.2.73)
Pages: 6 & 7 (Colour)
Writer: Dennis Hooper
Artist: Gerry Haylock

The Doctor joins a group of top scientists at one of several conferences that are simultaneously taking place around the world. The project has been masterminded by the Abbot of Mai 'Sung who incapacitates all of the attendees with nerve gas.

The Doctor makes a swift recovery and accompanies his still comatose colleagues when they are delivered in to the hands of the Abbot who has the only cure to the effects of the gas. The Abbot intends to combine his own knowledge of the ancient mysteries with the scientific wisdom of the Doctor and his colleagues and rule the world.

With the relaunch of *TV Action + Countdown* as *TV Action*, the format of the comic changed as well as its title. The new line-up of strips were featured on a rotating basis. Each serialised story would alternate with a longer, one-off adventure. These complete in one tales would be heralded as "The Big Story" of that particular week and would be accompanied by a painted colour montage on the cover. *Doctor Who* took its turn with the other action strips with the serialised stories in colour and the complete adventures in black and white.

The curiously titled *Deadly Choice* was only three episodes long and showed all the signs of having been hurriedly written. Perhaps this was to enable *Doctor Who* to slot into the new format as quickly as possible.

The story itself is a simplistic one but despite this, it fails to stand up to any scrutiny and is a far cry from the high quality scripts of previous issues. The Abbot's motives are somewhat muddled. Initially he declares that he intends to wreak vengeance on the world but later he merely wants to control it. The fact that there are supposed to several conferences taking place all around the world is over-looked after the first instalment. Only one 'plane, presumably from England, arrives at the Abbot's hideaway.

An amusing in-joke is featured in the opening frames of the first instalment when the the Doctor is seen to receive a copy of *TV Action + Countdown* along with his mail.

WHO IS THE STRANGER

TV Action
Issue 104
(10.02.73)
Pages: 2 - 5 & 21 - 23 (B&W) plus colour cover painting.
Writer: Dennis Hooper
Artist: Gerry Haylock

The Doctor lands the TARDIS in Nazi-occupied Paris during World War II. Captured by the Gestapo, the Doctor becomes the guinea-pig of Professor Schmidt who intends to try out a new truth serum on him. Fortunately, the Doctor is able to turn the tables, submitting the Professor to his own drug. The Doctor learns from Schmidt that the Reynard Resistance group has been infiltrated by a Nazi spy.

The Doctor makes contact with the resistance with the intention of alerting them to the spy in their midst. Unfortunately, convincing them that he himself is not the spy proves to be more difficult than he had anticipated.

Not dissimilar to the earlier World War II strip in *Countdown*, *Timebenders*, this adventure had even less of a science-fiction basis to the story. Although neatly and concisely told, this tale would seem to be very much written to a familiar formula employed in dozens of books and films.

In the opening frame of the story, it is stated that "The Doctor has replaced the element in his TARDIS" which apparently enables him to once again travel in time and space.

On confronting the Doctor, the Gestapo colonel succumbs to a fit of blatant cliche and informs him "We have ways of making you talk!" Thus, all suspicions that this story may be in any way original are banished forever.

This adventure was reprinted in the 1977 *Doctor Who Winter Special*. Artist John Canning 'updated' the strip by drawing a likeness of Tom Baker's Doctor over the Third Doctor's features and clothes.

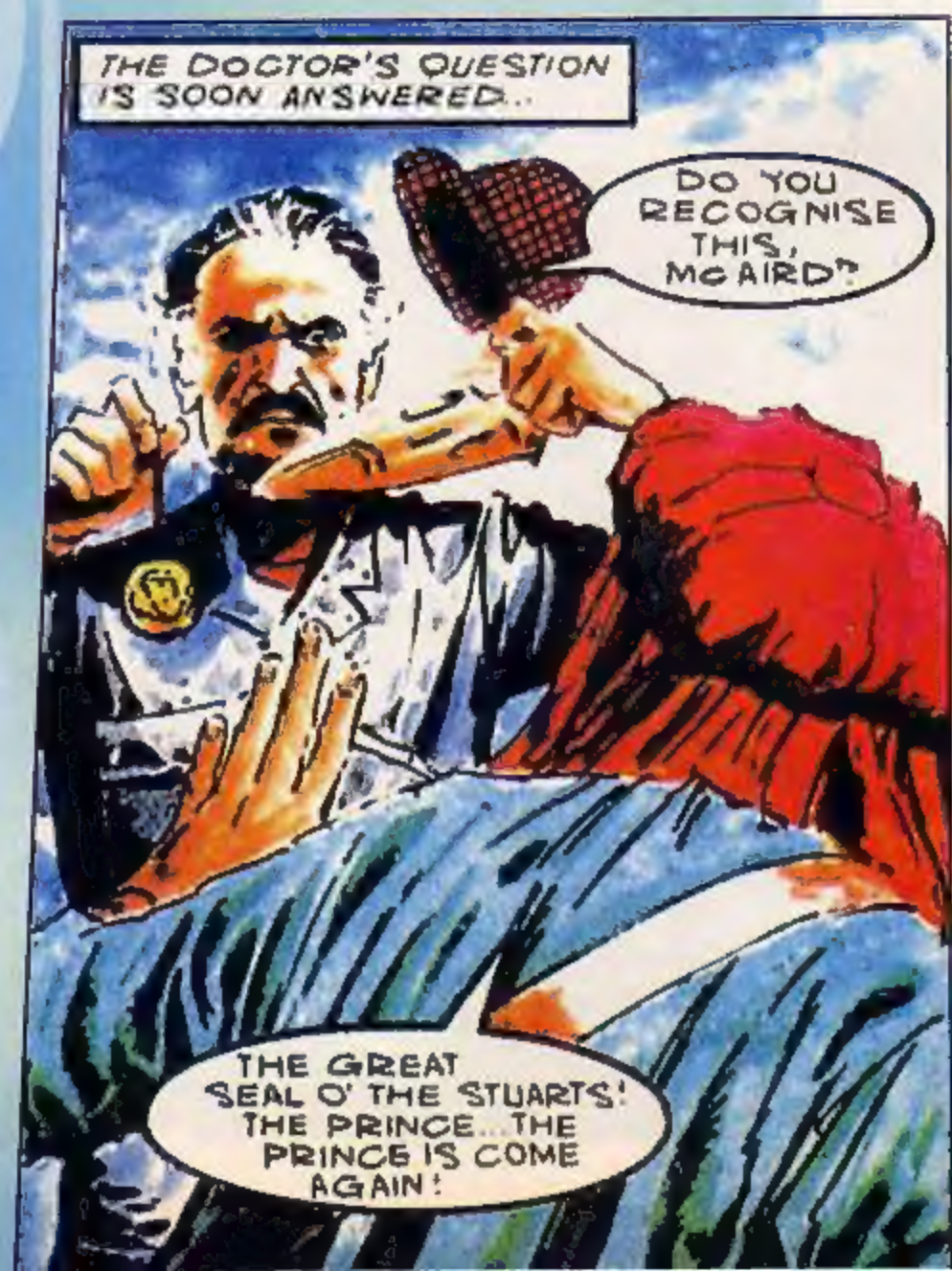
THE GLEN OF SLEEPING

TV Action
Issues 107 - 111
(3.3.73 - 31.3.73)
Pages: 1 - 4: 12 & 13; 5: 18 & 19 (Colour)
Writer: Dick O'Neill
Artist: Gerry Haylock

While on a fishing holiday in Scotland, the Doctor encounters a group of archaeologists who are investigating the legend of the Glen of Sleeping. One of the scientists is in fact the Master in disguise who summons Red Angus and his clansmen from their centuries-long sleep. With Angus and his men under his command, the Master intends to use them to capture a nuclear submarine in a nearby loch.

The Doctor traces the cause of the clansmen's long slumber to two chronons, an alien time-trap device. Using the the chronons the Doctor is able to send himself, the Master, the submarine and the clansmen back to 1745. Pursued by Red Coats, the Doctor may never be able to escape back to the twentieth century.

This Scottish version of the Arthurian legend was to be the Master's one and only appearance in the regular *Doctor Who* strip. It would seem that writer Dick O'Neil assumed that *TV Action* readers would know who the Master was as no explanation was provided in the story. The Master's



motivation would appear to be to obtain the Doctor's TARDIS for reasons never specified. This is an interesting turnaround to the television series where it was the Doctor who would very much like to get his hands on the Master's TARDIS. At the adventure's close, the Master is apparently stranded in 1745. The Doctor, however, is quite convinced that his nemesis will be able to escape but as to how, we can only guess.

THE THREAT FROM BENEATH

TV Action
Issue 112
(7.4.73)
Pages: 2 - 5 & 21 - 23 (B&W) plus colour cover painting
Writer: Dick O'Neill
Artist: Gerry Haylock

Neutralising Earth's satellite network, the Daleks are able to land a flying saucer beneath the sea and establish a control area. The Doctor suspects an invasion but Whitehall refuse to take his recommendations seriously.

Using the TARDIS to investigate, the Doctor infiltrates the Dalek craft just in time to witness the Daleks' subjugation of a Royal Navy nuclear submarine by mind control. The Doctor is able to turn the Daleks' plan to his advantage when he orders the submarine commander to fire upon the Dalek craft. However, the Doctor may not be able to escape to the TARDIS before the missile strikes.

This "Big Story" was to be the last time that the Third Doctor would face the Daleks in the comic strip. Unfortunately, due to the simplistic nature of the story, the Daleks' motive to invade the Earth is never clarified. At one point the Doctor notices some underwater mining equipment aboard the Dalek saucer. This might suggest that the Daleks intended to plunder the planet for its mineral wealth.

The notion of having the Daleks take control of the Navy's submarine by remote control seems remarkably similar to the events of *The Sea Devils*. This television adventure had been shown a year earlier and may well have been the inspiration for this strip.

Once again, the authority figures of the military are depicted as being stubborn and ignorant with the Doctor saving the day but allowing them to take the credit.

The Doctor's flight in the TARDIS to the Dalek saucer relies on the direction of the Doctor's fellow Time Lords. This was to mark the first of many instances where the Time Lords would be referred to as controlling the TARDIS. On television, the Doctor would occasionally be seen to act as a reluctant agent for his people but in the comic strip almost every journey would be at the instigation of his omnipotent peers. This trend would endure until Marvel took over the strip in 1979.

The Threat from Beneath was reprinted, under the title of *Invasion*, in the 1977 *Doctor Who Winter Special*. The Fourth Doctor's features were drawn over Jon Pertwee's by John Canning.

KCAB TO THE SUN

TV Action
Issues 116 - 119
(5.5.73 - 26.5.73)
Pages: 6 - 7 (Colour)
Writer: Dennis Hooper
Artist: Gerry Haylock

At the request of the Ministry, the Doctor investigates a new solar power station in Wales called Station 40. The station's director, Sir Nigel Lomax, refuses to acknowledge the potential danger of the project and appears to be working to his own agenda.

The Doctor discovers that some years ago, Lomax apparently escaped death in a volcano by making contact with an alien life-form that requires intense heat to survive. Attempting to recreate a new habitat for his alien masters, Sir Nigel intends to put a permanent end to the Doctor's interfering

This particularly well constructed story featured many of the traits common to the Earth-based television *Doctor Who* stories of the early Seventies. The Doctor's inspection of a new and possibly dangerous scientific complex and his clash with its obsessive director are good, strong themes that were successfully employed on several occasions. Can it be just a coincidence that the story being shown on television at the same time as this strip's publication was *The Green Death*? The Welsh village setting and placard-bearing protesters are common to both tales as well as the more common themes already mentioned. Possibly Dennis Hooper knew of the forthcoming television story and was inspired to write a similarly-based comic strip. Coincidence or not, the story is a good one only slightly let down by a climax that is a bit too hurried.

At the close of the second part, the man from the Ministry informs the Doctor that until ten years ago, Sir Nigel Lomax used to be an expert on volcanoes. However, in the recap at the opening of the third part, the figure has mysteriously been reduced to eight years.

FOGBOUND

Doctor Who Holiday Special (1973)
Pages: 3 - 8 (B&W)
Writer: Unknown
Artist: Frank Langford

Using alien mist flowers from the planet Sarkan, the Master lures the Doctor to the seaside resort of Tadcaster by enshrouding the town in a dense fog. The Master relishes in his opportunity to taunt the Doctor who is effectively blinded by the fog. However, the Master has reckoned without the interference of the Doctor's blind companion Joe, who does not need to rely on his eyes. The Doctor and Joe pursue the Master to his pier-head hideaway. Desperate to stop him from making the Sarkan mist flowers bloom, the Doctor and Joe take drastic action.

As was becoming the norm with villains in the strips, the Master's motivations beyond having a laugh at the Doctor's expense are unclear. If he had been able to make the Sarkan mist flowers bloom, presumably the fog would have enshrouded Earth, but what then? Regardless of the Master's objectives, he would appear to have been tempting fate by establishing his base on a pier as the mist flowers cannot flourish in the sea.

For the first time since his appearance in the days of the *TV Comic Doctor Who* strips, the Brigadier appears in both this adventure and *Secret of the Tower*. Presumably the negotiations for the use of the *Doctor Who* characters in the Holiday Special comic strips were separate from the agreements reached over the regular weekly ones.

SECRET OF THE TOWER

Doctor Who Holiday Special (1973)
Pages: 40 - 46 (B&W)
Writer: Unknown
Artist: Alex Badia

The Doctor and the Brigadier pursue master galactic criminal, Hingrad through the London Underground. The Doctor discovers Hingrad's layer in the Tower of London. Intent on stealing the crown jewels, Hingrad leaves the Doctor imprisoned in stocks to be killed by an ancient cannon.

A master of disguise and escaping at the climax of the story, Hingrad might just as well have been the Master. One can only wonder why it was decided to concoct a totally original villain for the Doctor.

Quite why Hingrad believes that obtaining the crown jewels will place him "in charge of this pitifully primitive world" is never explained. Perhaps he is struck by the foolishness of his plan which would certainly explain why makes no attempt at achieving it and throws himself in the Thames!

Once again the Brigadier makes an appearance and even Captain Yates receives a mention.